Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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California judge delays ruling in Miura case. **PAGE 3**

High Court reverses man's assault conviction. **PAGE 5**

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the proposed relocation of all adult businesses to a portion of Middle Road?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Blue Ceiling

From the palest of powder blues to varying shades of aqua, blue porch ceilings are popping up all across town.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING... Page 11

Cease-Fire

Georgia's president grudgingly signed a truce with Russia Friday.

WORLD...Page 18

Air Jump

Bill Murray landed in Chicago by jumping from an airplane 13,500 feet up.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 22

BASED ON RATING SCALE SET BY DCCA

Childcare centers get an F

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.net
REPORTER

On a scale of 1-10, childcare centers in the CNMI failed to obtain even the minimum grade of 4, according to an initial assessment conducted by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The islands' childcare centers got an overall rating of just 3.5 but Childcare Program Direc-

See CHILDCARE on Page 4

183 students owe college

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

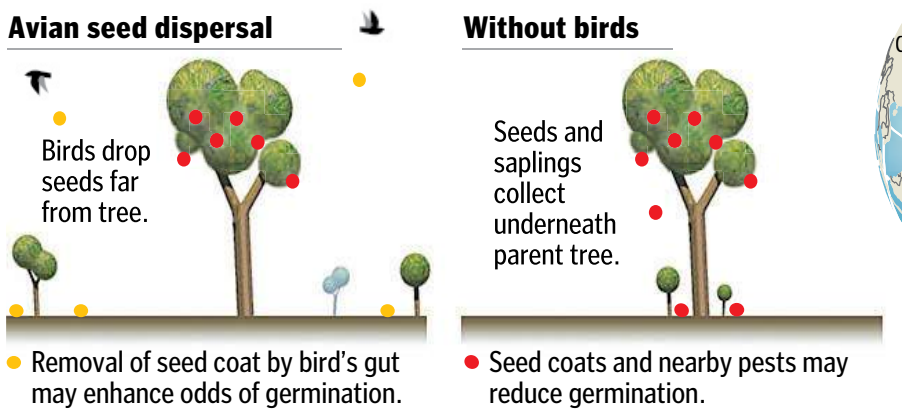
As registration for Northern Marianas College begins tomorrow, more than 180 students have outstanding payments to the college.

Mark Mendiola, spokesman for NMC,

See STUDENTS on Page 4

Knocking a Forest Off Balance

Invasive brown tree snakes have exterminated Guam's native birds, a loss that could affect the ability of some trees to regenerate.


Avian seed dispersal
Birds drop seeds far from tree.
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Seed coats and nearby pests may reduce germination.

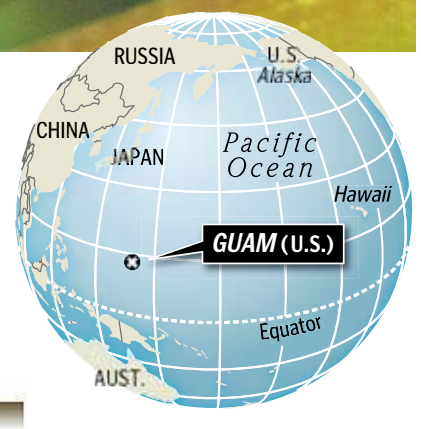

PHOTO COURTESY OF ISAAC CHELLMAN; GRAPHIC BY PATTERSON CLARK, MAP BY LARIS KARKLIS — THE WASHINGTON POST

Brown tree snake's impact on Guam seem to extend to island flora

By MARC KAUFMAN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

One of the most infamous examples of what can happen when a non-native species is introduced into a new environment involves the brown tree snake—a voracious, semi-venomous species that in less than 50 years all but destroyed bird life on the northern Pacific island of Guam. Introduced inadvertently from the South Pacific just after World War II, apparently on a cargo ship, the snake has killed off 10 bird species on the island and is in the process of wiping out the remaining two.

See BROWN on Page 4

Around the CNMI

CNMI students return from kids' convention

The six-student delegation led by Brenda B. Repeki from the Marianas Visitors Authority returned to the CNMI on July 23 after participating in the 20th Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention in Fukuoka, Japan. The annual convention took place July 11-23, 2008.

This year, the Asian-Pacific Children's Convention marked 20 years of the continuing summer invitation program. The APCC's slogan: "*We are the BRIDGE: We connect dreams around the world*" reflected the main goals of the convention: to generate appreciation for a variety of cultures through exchanges between children from all over the Asia-Pacific region, to promote mutual understanding throughout the Asia-Pacific region, and to raise young people with a global perspective who will work to increase international awareness in their local community.

The youth ambassadors' first experience was the Marine House camp, while the APCC coordinators prepared activities for the chaperones and junior ambassadors to interact with people from other countries and to learn their cultures, heritages and way of life.

The APCC was launched in Fukuoka in 1989 by the Fukuoka Junior Chamber with the aim of nurturing children—the "bearers of the future"—to become global citizens. Since then and for the past 20 years the APCC has continued this activity, conducting Fukuoka's annual international exchange project and operating in a unique style where the business community and citizens get fully integrated.

The 20th Anniversary Project Execution Plan Commemorating Event also took place during that time with a total number of about 3,000 participants. An estimated 700 children from Asia-Pacific and from Fukuoka, Japan, chaperons and host families participated.

The Emperor and Empress Hitachi were also present during the Commemoration celebration and at the sports event. The Emperor gave a speech during both functions.

For the second half of the event, the invitation also included guests who have long supported the APCC, and showed the children's dynamic cross-cultural exchanges.

"The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has been sending groups of Junior Ambassadors, accompanied by a chaperone to participate in the annual Asia-Pacific Children's Convention, held in Fukuoka, Japan, each year. It is a truly unique event that allows approximately 700 11-year-old children from 43 regions around the Asia-Pacific rim to share in a truly international exchange," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio.

This year's participants were Johnny Roger Duenas Penalosa, James Arthur Lifoifoi Phillips, Katsutoshi Comia Pangelinan, Allysha Hillary Sabanal Lloren, Marika Joleen Pascua Cabay and Franory Lynn Pluhs Mesngon, accompanied by Brenda Ann Blas Repeki. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seen here are the 20th Annual Asian-Pacific Children's Convention delegates and chaperone, along with MVA's delegation representative Martin F. Duenas, after their attendance at the 20th Commemorative celebration in Fukuoka, Japan.

Club 200 to begin selling tickets

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The 20th annual Red Cross Club 200 ball will be a haunting experience this year.

To coincide with the end of October, the ball will have a Halloween theme, said John Hirsh, executive director for CNMI's Red Cross Chapter.

Hirsh

"We've got some great ideas in store: spider webs, a haunted house, just kind of fun things," Hirsh said.

The event will be held Oct. 25 from 5pm to 10pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Guests can dress up for the event, although they are not required to do so, he said.

There will be a costume contest and musician Willie K from Hawaii will perform.

The Red Cross will raffle off $20,000 at the event, an increase of $5,000 from last year's raffle, to coincide with the 20th anniversary.

"We know people could really use that money in these hard economic times," Hirsh said.

The Red Cross will begin selling the $100 per person tickets this week. Interested buyers can contact the Red Cross, or talk to one of the many "web of ticket sellers" who will be selling tickets around the island. Tickets can be bought with a credit card, Hirsh said.

Ultimately, Hirsh said, he hopes people remember the event is for a good cause.

"This is our signature fundraiser," he said. "It's a critical part of our ability to operate the Red Cross in our community. The American Red Cross doesn't pay us, we have to pay them to be a part of the network."

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California judge delays ruling in Miura case

By LINDA DEUTSCH
AP SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TORRANCE, California (AP)—A complicated court hearing concerning a Japanese businessman accused of murdering his wife 27 years ago in Los Angeles ended Friday without a decision on whether he will be extradited and tried in the United States.

A defense attorney claims Kazuyoshi Miura would face double jeopardy if he was tried in this country because his previous conviction in Japan was overturned by a high court.

Miura was visible during the hearing on a large movie screen via closed circuit camera in his Saipan jail cell. He listened on a cell phone to a translation of the proceedings.

Superior Court Judge Steven Van Sicklen heard lengthy testimony from an expert on whether Japan has a law regarding conspiracy and if Miura had already been tried on the charge in that country.

The expert, Mark West, a professor at the University of Michigan, said Japanese courts don't have a conspiracy law but do have a theory called Article 60 that allows consideration of collusion between defendants as the basis for a murder verdict.

Defense attorney Mark Geragos said outside court that the testimony meant Miura could not be tried in this country without facing double jeopardy.

"This is nonsense," Geragos said, adding that he might call his own expert witness when the man returns from Mongolia.

Sicklen decided to wait for the expert to become available before scheduling another hearing.

Prosecutors have argued that the 60-year-old Miura cannot claim double jeopardy because he never entered a plea under California law and was not tried here. At the time of the killing, California law barred prosecution of someone already tried in a foreign jurisdiction. However, that law was changed in 2005.

Even if the charge of murder is barred under double jeopardy provisions, Miura can be tried for conspiracy to kill his wife because he was not convicted or acquitted of that crime in Japan, prosecutors have said.

The courtroom was packed with Japanese media. The long-running case has been a *cause celebre* in Japan, where it was dubbed "the Japanese O.J. case."

Miura, a clothing importer, said he was shot along with his wife in a street crime. He held news conferences denouncing Los Angeles as an unsafe city for tourists.

His wife died of her injuries, and he returned to Japan and collected $700,000 on three separate insurance policies on her life.

But Japanese authorities took another look at the case and Miura was tried and convicted of the murder in 1994. That conviction was overturned by the Tokyo High Court in 1998 and Miura was freed.

He was arrested on the California charges in February when he entered the U.S. territory of Saipan.

Miura's teleconference call is abruptly cut short on Saipan

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kazuyoshi Miura's telephone conference call for his Los Angeles hearing ended abruptly Saturday morning at the Department of Corrections in Susupe, but the Asian media were out in full force covering every detail.

The connection was lost before the attorneys could find out when the next court date would be set, said Assistant Attorney General Jeffery Warfield Sr. outside the DOC.

Miura waived his appearance in Los Angeles during the conference call.

In Los Angeles, a professor testified for the prosecution about the differences in Japan and the United State's definitions of conspiracy. The professor said there are different types of conspiracies, Warfield said.

Celebrity attorney Mark Geragos, counsel for the 60-year-old Miura in L.A., cross-examined the professor, Warfield said. Geragos argued that Miura has already been tried and acquitted of conspiracy in Japan, Warfield said.

Bruce Berline, one of three legal counsels for Miura on Saipan, said after the call he would return to his office and talk with Geragos.

"Because of how the hearing was conducted, we were unable to really hear what was going on," he said.

The media were not allowed into DOC to listen to the conference call, but several members of the Asian media camped out all morning waiting for the telephone conference to end.

The State of California is seeking Miura's extradition on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in connection with the killing of his wife in 1981. Miura has been in jail since he was arrested at the Saipan airport on Feb. 22.

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MODERN EXPLORERS
A group of Japanese tourists explore the Last Command Post in Marpi yesterday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

BROWN

From Page 1

The virtual extermination of Guam's birds has been bemoaned for decades, but new research suggests that the damage to the ecology of the narrow, 30-mile-long island did not stop there.

The hundreds of thousands of snakes, researchers say, are now changing the way Guam's forest grows and will most likely cause substantial thinning and clumping of trees in the years ahead. In addition, the snakes appear to be indirectly responsible for an explosion in the spider population.

Guam, which is 3,800 miles west of Hawaii, did not have predatory snakes before the brown tree snakes arrived, and as a result the birds were not afraid of such creatures and not prepared for the onslaught. The snakes have few natural predators on the island and have at times climbed electric poles in their search for young birds, causing power outages.

"The brown tree snake has often been used as a textbook example for the negative impacts of invasive species, but after the loss of birds no one has looked at the snake's indirect effects," said Haldre Rogers, a University of Washington doctoral student in biology who presented her findings last week at the Ecological Society of America's annual meeting.

Rogers, who first went to Guam in 2002 as part of a U.S. Geological Survey "rapid response team" in a bid to keep the snakes from spreading, said she has studied tree growth on Guam and neighboring islands and has found "amazing" differences.

Without birds, which eat the seeds of certain trees and then spread them in their droppings, those trees are losing out to others that do not depend as much on bird middlemen. The seeds of the trees that relied on birds are now falling mostly near the trunks of the parent trees, where they are more likely to be spoiled by fungus and less likely to grow into healthy trees. The result, Rogers said, will either be the loss of some tree species or the clumping of those trees in isolated patches.

"It seems inevitable that the forest will change and some of the native species will lose out," she said. Birds typically make up a small part of the life of a forest, but they are important not only for spreading seeds but also for pollinating flowers and controlling some insects that feed on plants.

To test her theory, Rogers built traps of fine-mesh screen-door netting to collect falling seeds. She set 119 traps beneath and near Premna obtusifolia, or false elder, trees on Guam and on the nearby island of Saipan, which does not have the snakes. She set two traps directly beneath each tree's canopy, two about three feet away, three at 16 feet, three at 33 feet and seven at 65 feet away.

On Saipan, she found seeds in nearly every trap—though, not surprisingly, there were more seeds closer to the trees. But on Guam, there were no seeds at all beyond the canopy of the trees. Most of the bird-dispersed seeds on Saipan also had their outer coverings removed, something that most likely occurred in the gut of a bird. Bare seeds germinate faster and result in speedier growth of new trees. None of the seeds on Guam had their coverings removed.

Rogers' team also randomly searched for seedlings of the Aglaia mariannensis (or mupunyao) tree and each seedling's most likely parent on Guam, Saipan and two other nearby islands, Tinian and Rota. All the Guam seedlings were found within 16 feet of the nearest adult tree—most within six feet. On the other islands, the adult trees were two to three times as far from the seedlings.

Gregory Butcher, director for bird conservation at the National Audubon Society, said Rogers' research is consistent with the widely held view that birds provide "invaluable ecological services," especially in spreading plant seeds.

"We know that if birds are not present to fulfill that role, there often is nothing else that can do it," Butcher said. "The implications are severe, and that's why we consider bird conservation to be so important."

Rogers said other recent studies have shown a steady decline in bird populations, and that up to one-quarter of American species are threatened with extinction.

The population of brown tree snakes peaked on Guam in the mid-1980s, but the island remains one of the most snake-infested places on Earth—with as many as 3,000 per square mile, some of them 10 feet long. The snakes, which are nocturnal and will eat adult birds as well as eggs, can harm young children but are not considered a danger to others. With most of the birds now gone, they live on rodents and lizards, the endangered Mariana fruit bat, and sometimes inhabitants' garbage.

Island officials continue to work to control the explosion, but Rogers said it is no longer possible to eradicate the snakes. Officials concentrate on making sure they are not on cargo ships leaving the island.

Rogers said Guam also appears now to be swarming with spiders, and her team—which receives public, private and academic funding—plans to survey that population as well as doing more research into the effect of birdlessness on trees. The spiders used to be controlled by the birds, she said, but now they, too, have few predators. Although a few non-native birds have come to Guam, she said, the numbers remain small.

"Unfortunately, Guam is a laboratory of sorts for what happens when an invasive species brings major change," she said. "You can't really see it yet, but it appears that the indirect consequences for the forest can be as important as the direct consequences we saw on the bird population."

STUDENTS

From Page 1

said 183 students currently owe the college money. Sixty of the students will be covered by scholarships, he added.

The students must make the payments before they can register for the coming school year that starts Aug. 25, Mendiola said. Outstanding payments include unpaid tuition, fees, bookstore charges and library fines.

"Students who have outstanding payments due may not be allowed to register for classes unless they work out some agreement with the respective department," he said.

NMC understands the hard economic times students are facing and works with students to try to come up with plans or alternative payment methods, Mendiola said.

"This includes financial aid assistance in the form of federal and local scholarships and grants," he said.

Students can also apply for Pell Grants, and scholarships, including the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance scholarship, the CNMI Scholarship, and other private scholarships, he said.

The Career Development Office helps students find jobs to defray the costs. The college also employs students in federal work-study programs so students can work on campus while earning their degrees, Mendiola said.

Students can also enroll in a tuition payment plan that allows them to pay their tuition in installments.

"The college's Finance Office will make every effort to make arrangements with students so that their studies and professional development can continue," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

CHILDCARE

From Page 1

tor Maribel S.D. Loste was quick to explain that they visited only seven of the 22 registered centers. Of these, 18 are actively participating in the professional development program the DCCA has been conducting, she said.

Thus the initial overall rating does not reflect the true picture, Loste said at the presentation held yesterday at the Multi-Purpose Center.

The grading system was based on two types, the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale and the Infant Toddler Environment Rating Scale.

Loste stressed that this grading system is not meant to compare one center to another but is part of the self-improvement program.

She said this would help them evaluate whether one center needs more technical support or the types of professional development they need to improve their center.

"This is actually an annual review of the registered childcare centers. There is a move to improve the service they must give to the children and that is what we believe—childcare is no longer just babysitting but they must provide quality education," Loste said.

The program started in 2006 but this is the first time such rating has been given.

A registered center has at least one child who is subsidized by the childcare program.

Loste said that each center must make up for next year's review and if it continues to fail in succeeding years, then DCCA might not renew their registration in the future.

A total of 54 persons participated, including directors, principals and teachers, in the presentation of the rating of each center yesterday. The rating for each center was not made public.

High Court reverses man's assault conviction

The NMI Supreme Court joined with a majority of U.S. jurisdictions in holding that Commonwealth defendants are not required to retreat before using reasonable force in self-defense. The High Court issued the ruling in reversing a criminal defendant's convictions on Friday.

The case stemmed from a fight Francisco R. Demapan was involved in while attending a barbecue at a friend's house. During the course of the fight, an attacker hit Demapan in the head with a belt buckle three times. As a result, Demapan swung a knife at his attacker, resulting in a minor cut on the attacker's lower abdomen.

Demapan was charged with a number of crimes, including assault with a dangerous weapon. During trial, Demapan pleaded not guilty, claiming that because he was not the initial aggressor, he had no duty to retreat before fighting back. Demapan argued that "a person threatened with an attack that justifies the exercise of the right of self-defense need not retreat." The trial judge, however, rejected Demapan's argument, and impliedly indicated that Demapan had a duty to retreat before fighting back. The jury subsequently convicted Demapan of assault with a dangerous weapon.

On appeal, the Supreme Court reversed Demapan's convictions and remanded them to the trial court for a new trial. After reviewing the law of self-defense in all 50 states, the High Court noted that 29 states, in addition to the U.S. Supreme Court, do not require defendants to retreat before using non-deadly or deadly force, "so long as they reasonably believe their use of force is necessary to prevent death or serious bodily harm."

The court adopted "the majority view that defendants are not required to retreat before using reasonable . . . force to defend against unlawful aggressors."

The court added that "in order to justifiably claim self-defense in exercising physical force, the following factors must be satisfied: (1) the defendant must have a reasonable fear of imminent danger; (2) the defendant may only use force against an unlawful aggressor; (3) the defendant's use of force must be necessary; and (4) the defendant's use of force must be proportional to the aggressor's use of force."

In so holding, the High Court aligned Commonwealth law with the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. United States*, which reasoned that "[d]etached reflection cannot be demanded in the presence of an uplifted knife." The NMI Supreme Court stated that "victims need not yield their rights to unlawful aggressors, for '[i]f a defender is obligated to retreat, he is obligated to give way to the forces of…the wrong.'"

Justice John A. Manglona authored the unanimous Supreme Court opinion, and was joined by Justices Pro Tem Timothy H. Bellas and Herbert D. Soll. ***(PR)***

FREAK WEATHER
A rare tornado is seen hovering over the Saipan International Airport. PDI's Gordon Marciano took this picture Thursday last week before boarding a Freedom Air flight. "I have seen small ones but not this big, something strange with the weather lately," said Marciano in a e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.
GORDON MARCIANO

NMC highlights conservation project progress to 2 visiting federal officials

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service recently highlighted the progress it has made with a soil and water conservation project aimed at raising the quality of agricultural produce grown in the CNMI.

The progress report and demonstration was made to an inspection team from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, which funded the project with a grant of $73,000.

NMC CREES Director Ross Manglona indicated that the conservation project, which is located in As Perdido and utilizes and compares traditional and modern farm techniques, would be completed before the end of this year.

Public outreach activities will then follow to educate the community about project findings and to demonstrate proven techniques to raise agricultural yields. One of the other goals of the project is to increase farmers' profit margins by helping them employ techniques that reduce costs.

According to Manglona, the inspection team was impressed with the progress of the project and was particularly taken aback with the how well the farm site was organized and how much was achieved in a rather short amount of time.

The inspection team consisted of Guam-based agronomist Dr. Craig Smith and Michael Whitt, NRCS program manager from Hawaii.

Interested students, farmers, and the public are welcome to visit the farm anytime for a first hand experience on the CREES farming project. For more information call NMC-CREES at (670) 234-5498 extension 1707**.** ***(NMC)***

Samuel C. Lo, O.D., M.D.

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Dr. Lo will be in Saipan beginning August 25, 2008 for one week.
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EDITORIAL

Remember New Orleans

Three years have passed since Hurricane Katrina lashed the Gulf Coast. The people of New Orleans felt abandoned by their country then. And while they are optimistic about their future, they feel forgotten now.

In a survey of Orleans Parish released by the Henry J. Kaiser Foundation this month, 65 percent of respondents said they thought "most Americans have forgotten about the challenges facing New Orleans." Sixty percent said no when asked, "Do you think the rebuilding of New Orleans is a priority for Congress and the president?" No surprise: The pace of recovery has been slow. Battles between Baton Rouge and Washington over red tape and funding have contributed to this. That doesn't mean progress isn't being made. It is. But the need for leadership and focus from Washington remains.

A survey by the Greater New Orleans Community Data Center of the Brookings Institution's Metropolitan Policy Program shows that New Orleans has recovered 72 percent of its pre-Katrina population. For the region as a whole, it's 87 percent. Tax revenue is at 89 percent of the pre-Katrina level in Orleans Parish. Revenue is surging past that level in surrounding parishes.

But the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) reports that less than half of the $33.2 billion in allocated federal rebuilding funds has been spent. The Brookings report shows that fair-market rents have climbed 46 percent since Katrina. Disbursements from the state-run home rebuilding fund, the Road Home Program, have slowed. According to the LRA, 84 percent of active applications had been closed as of Wednesday. The average grant is down to $58,527 from $72,669 in July 2007. Despite an increase in ridership, Brookings notes, only 50 percent of public transportation routes and 19 percent of buses are operational in New Orleans.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., both decry what they describe as the Bush administration's inadequate response during the worst natural disaster in U.S. history and vow never to be caught flat-flooted in the White House. McCain's plan concentrates on rebuilding the levees and other infrastructure, and on disaster preparedness and rapid response. Those are on Obama's list, along with sparking economic development and bolstering safety and security. The Kaiser Foundation notes that 74 percent of the people of New Orleans are optimistic about the future — a remarkable outlook for a city that has longed for safety and security since the levees broke on Aug. 29, 2005.

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Motivating a future former president

By JOEL STEIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times*. E-mail him at jstein@latimescolumnists.com.*

There are many things George W. Bush should do after his presidency, most of which involve apologizing. But that's not the man's strength. So if he really wants to, as he said, "give some speeches to replenish the old coffers," I suggest he stick to what he does best: motivational speaking.

I've never seen anyone throw pompoms at disaster as well as Bush. Other leaders—Churchill, FDR, Reagan, JFK, Bruce Springsteen—expressed how citizens would rise to the challenge of difficult times and either save the world or leave town in a muscle car with a woman. Bush skips all those steps and proclaims that despite all signs to the contrary, everything is awesome right now. Iraq is going great; recovering from 9/11 just required some shopping. Then, during a news conference in July to address the credit crisis, he said that "our economy has demonstrated remarkable resilience ... our economy has continued growing, consumers are spending, businesses are investing, exports continue increasing and American productivity remains strong." I was surprised he didn't deliver this speech while wearing a gold chain and drinking Cristal in a hot tub.

There are plenty of people who need this kind of mindless positivity. So here are some talking points he might offer to suggested clients.

■ Polar bears
What a great time to be a polar bear! You got those Coca-Cola ads and those "Ice Age" movies that me and Laura love. And global warming is sending lots of scientists to the North Pole, and I wouldn't be bothered if you ate those scientists.

■ Yahoo guys
The media aren't telling the real story about Yahoo, which is that it is destroying Google. People love all that stuff crammed haphazardly onto your home page. Some are ads, some aren't, and it's fun to try to figure out which is which. And that box featuring the top searches of the day? Alicia Sacramone, Kim Novak, Tori Spelling, Bigfoot, Michael Phelps and Tallest Man? Great to know, Yahoo! You've clearly got a lock on high-income, Bigfoot-and-Tallest-Man-info-dependent searchers.

■ Journalists
When I found out how much newspapers paid you guys, I made Dick Cheney explain why I had to talk to you at all. Sean Hannity, though, that guy makes money. Good guy. So with newspapers gone, you all can focus on working for Fox News or maybe Fox News Deuce or Fox News Classic. And my cousin Billy makes gobs speaking truth to power.

■ Bush Library fundraisers
Thanks to you, money is pouring in for my library, which will be highly visited because of my decision not to have any printed material there. Also, there's some talk—good talk, I think—of calling it the George W. Bush Presidential Movie Theater. That's $7 a person right there.

■ Best supporting actor nominees
The media seem to think this award is going to Heath Ledger for "The Dark Knight." It turns out Heath Ledger is dead. So there's one less guy who can win. That increases your odds by whatever percentage five guys is bigger than four guys by.

■ Rudy Giuliani
People really do want to hear you talk. Sure, they used to pay lots of money to hear you talk, and then you ran for president and no one would walk four blocks to the local high school to see you for free. But that just means the way to fill Yankee Stadium is to charge $50,000 a ticket.

■ Georgians
Being in NATO is great, but being in NATO and part of Russia? That's twice as much protection!

■ Aaron Rodgers
Green Bay loves quarterbacks, and they were sick of Brett Favre anyway. You almost beat the Cincinnati Bengals in your first exhibition game, already exceeding the value most fantasy football players put on you. There's a part in a Farrelly brothers' movie coming your way. Do those guys need someone to come speak to them?

■ Homeowners
Your house is worth more than all the houses ever made put together. Because Chinese people are going to buy them. The Chinese love high ceilings and travertine.

■ Microsoft
That iPod craze came to a halt when the Zune MP3 player unleashed its convenient Microsoft Marketplace pricing system (one song costs 79 Microsoft Points, which cost $5 for a block of 400. Goodbye, complicated Base 10 system.) And who needs Bill Gates in charge when you've got so many Zunes to make?

■ John McCain
Dude, you are totally going to win. We're in the same party, and people want to keep this ride going as long as possible.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Bush wants Russia to pay, but not so much it hurts

By ANNE GEARAN and JENNIFER LOVEN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

WASHINGTON (AP)—There's blame to go around as the United States assesses the disastrous consequences of a war between Russia and Georgia.

President George W. Bush was overconfident. Georgia's pro-American president, Mikhail Saakashvili, overreached. And Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin overreacted.

Now what?

Washington is trimming cooperation with Russia on several fronts while saying the loss is Russia's. Putin, clearly in charge if there was any doubt before, seems unconcerned.

Even as the White House has concluded Moscow must pay for what it considers an out-of-bounds war with U.S.-backed Georgia, it is worried about going too far itself.

The cost of overpunishing, Bush's advisers believe, could be to feed Russian grievance further and encourage the very Cold War-style regional aggression the West decries.

Bush advisers appeared startled over recent days at raw statements coming from Moscow that suggest many in the Kremlin still put a premium on maintaining or even expanding the square mileage under Moscow's control.

An even bigger cost could be the cold shoulder from Moscow the next time the United States needs its help.

Say, a few weeks from now when Washington wants Russia's vote for a new round of U.N. Security Council sanctions on Iran over its suspected nuclear weapons program. Or perhaps if North Korea should balk over the plan to get rid of its atomic bomb arsenal.

A Russian plan to host a follow-up to Bush's Middle East peace conference of last year is probably dead for now.

Russia cannot be ignored, as one of the U.N. Security Council's five permanent, veto-holding members, not to mention an energy behemoth with business ties across the globe.

"Russia has damaged its credibility and its relations with the nations of the free world," Bush said Friday in his toughest rebuke yet of a nation he once considered a promising if imperfect partner. "Bullying and intimidation are not acceptable ways to conduct foreign policy in the 21st century."

Bush helped set himself up for a fall by sounding so openly optimistic about Russia's path toward full legitimacy alongside the democratic, free-press nations on the other side of the 20th-century Iron Curtain.

The crisis mushroomed far beyond what he or other Western leaders imagined, and he has tried to contain it while striking the right balance of condemnation, coercion and concern.

Bush spoke on the topic on four of five days this week, a level of public presidential attention that very few crises have drawn.

He has pledged further consequences, no matter whether Russia fully complies with a U.S.-backed cease-fire that Saakashvili signed at Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's request on Friday.

For one thing, other nations in the region that once were Soviet republics or satellites have become very nervous. Those countries need both to hear world leaders tell Russia its actions in Georgia were unacceptable and to see some bite that shows they mean it.

Bush still wants to make sure Russian leaders pick up the phone when America calls.

"We don't need a 10-year freeze in U.S.-Russia relations," one official said.

Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain, the presumed Democratic and Republican candidates to replace Bush as president, have issued tough denunciations of Russia this week, a signal to Moscow that the next U.S. administration will not sweep the Georgia war under the rug in the interest of a fresh start with Russia.

In its waning months, the Bush White House is settling on a modest approach to punishing Moscow that would be intentionally low-profile. Bush advisers have concluded that anything perceived by Russia as a public humiliation could be counterproductive.

The best approach in their view seems to be "quiet action," such as continuing to exclude Russia's foreign minister from discussions among his counterparts in an elite Group of Eight club of industrialized democracies, as has been happening since the Russia-Georgia fighting began last week.

Most speculation so far has centered on kicking Russia out of the Group of Eight nations, the elite economic club that was known as the Group of Seven before an invitation to Russia that never had much to do with its economy.

Many in the administration think that step would have little practical effect given the G-8's lack of power to enforce policies.

Another option would have the United States revoke its support for Russia's entry into the World Trade Organization, a route that may not sting much for increasingly oil-rich Russia. U.S. officials have all but rejected that route as overkill.

So the idea is to give Russia face-saving leeway to decide that Western institutions and Western-style governance are the way of its future.

The trick, of course, is convincing Russia that is true.

The Bush administration believes its best argument is economic, essentially telling Moscow that to remain a country that merely sells gobs of energy worldwide but lacks international prestige and access to lucrative markets for a range of products would mire it in third-world status, rather than the first-world rank it desires.

True, perhaps, but also evidence that the Bush administration has reduced its Russia calculus to self-interest on both sides. Rice said as much before leaving for Europe and Georgia this week. Russia will cooperate on Iran and other issues for its own reasons, she said.

"It's not a favor to the United States."

Anne Gearan covers international affairs and Jennifer Loven covers the White House for The Associated Press.

What's the big deal? It's the little things

By JEFFREY KLUGER
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Whoever made the sandwich Gavrilo Princip ate on June 28, 1914, has a lot to answer for. Princip had more on his mind than his lunch that day, of course. What the young Bosnian was really thinking about was assassinating Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand, who had arrived in Sarajevo that morning for a state visit. Princip missed his first chance to shoot at the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne and slunk off to have a sandwich. By pure chance, the royal procession passed directly by the cafe where Princip was eating, and this time he seized his moment, killing Ferdinand—and plunging the Continent into World War I.

The nations of Europe—a nest of feuding empires—might well have gone to war no matter what Princip did. But going to war in the way they did, when they did, was certainly the young killer's doing. Ultimately, 8.5 million military deaths arguably turned on his crime—and the crime turned on his craving for a sandwich.

The opening shots of World War I are an oversized example of what's known as simplexity—the idea that simple things can be surprisingly complex, and complex things can be deceptively simple. This growing field of study reveals that all manner of phenomena—epidemics, traffic, even politics—move through tiny choke points, seemingly inconsequential junction boxes that may shape the very direction of history.

The United States, for instance, is on the verge of a potentially historic election, but it is the small shifts of fortune and accident that brought us to this pass. Of all the people blamed for the Iraq war and the failures of the Bush administration, the name of Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig rarely comes up. But maybe it should. Selig has held his job since 1992, but for several years he was technically the acting commissioner, a team owner merely caretaking the job while searching for a permanent replacement. George W. Bush, then part-owner of the Texas Rangers, was candid about his interest in the position. Selig dithered, Bush gave up and soon decided that politics might be a good alternative career.

Again and again, American history has turned on the dime of such tiny things. The Watergate conspiracy might have unraveled no matter what, but it was a strip of tape on a Watergate building office door that alerted a security guard that burglars were about. Jimmy Carter's presidency might have crashed and burned anyway, but it was a crashing and burning helicopter in the sands of Iran during a failed rescue of American hostages that may have sealed his loss in 1980. Carter dispatched too few helicopters for so complex a mission, and during the scramble to get away, one of them collided with a troop plane, killing eight soldiers. A few more helicopters might have meant a successful rescue—and a second term for Carter.

The way small causes yield huge effects is itself only one piece of the much grander idea of simplexity, a science that is increasingly being studied at universities and institutes around the world, but nowhere more intensely than at the Santa Fe Institute in New Mexico. The institute was created in 1984 with Murray Gell-Mann—the winner of the 1969 Nobel Prize in physics—as its founding director. It's grown into a multidisciplinary think tank where dozens of researchers from fields as diverse as economics, chemistry, physics, sociology and neuroscience study the simple rules that undergird pretty much everything.

Again and again, American history has turned on the dime of such tiny things. The Watergate conspiracy might have unraveled no matter what, but it was a strip of tape on a Watergate building office door that alerted a security guard that burglars were about.

It's there that investigators are discovering how individual investors in a millions-strong stock market mirror the behavior of individual particles in an atomic collider, allowing software designers to write better programs that can help us understand both. It's there that scientists are exploring how cars on a highway or people fleeing a burning building mimic the motion of flowing water, and seeing if that can lead to safer roads or more evacuation-friendly office towers.

No single unified rule governs all complex or simple systems, but there are a few big ones. There's the concept of phase changes: In the same way that water flips its state from liquid to vapor at 212 degrees Fahrenheit, so too does a stressed geological fault flip from quiescence to quake when it shifts one centimeter too far, or a crowd explodes into a riot when a single bottle is thrown. There's the concept of relaxation pathways, which models the way rivulets become rivers simply by flowing downhill, or how oceans give up their excess heat by blasting it into the sky as fuel for a hurricane. Understand these simple concepts and you understand the foundations of the larger sciences.

The most powerful of the simplexity concepts, however, is choke points—the keyholes in complex systems that can sometimes shut them down entirely. The London cholera epidemic of 1854, which could have claimed thousands of lives, was stopped cold when physician John Snow traced the contagion to a single contaminated water pump on Broad Street. The complex epidemic collided with the simple fix of shutting down the pump, and the simple fix won.

The streets of New York City are nothing if not a web of choke points. New York urban planner Sam Schwartz likes to point out that although about 1 million cars enter and leave Manhattan every day, only about 8,000 are in use in Midtown at any one moment. It takes just a few hundred extra cars to gridlock the 8,000, and the 8,000 in turn bring the 1 million to a halt. Astronauts, too, talk about "single-point failures," the one small breakdown in a massively sophisticated spacecraft that can cause the machine to fail. Engineers are pretty good at anticipating these things, and create backup systems that allow, say, a frozen guidance computer to be fixed with a little troubleshooting and software fiddling. A few millimeters of frayed wire in an Apollo 13 oxygen tank, however, were not so easily worked around.

The same kind of lucky—or unlucky—breaks have brought Barack Obama and John McCain to the threshold of the Oval Office. If Jeb Bush had run a stronger race for Florida governor in 1994, would he have been better positioned than his big brother to become president in 2000? Would that have resulted in less damage to the GOP brand and teed up his party for a win in 2008? If any one of the single-point failures that doomed Al Gore in 2000 (from butterfly ballots to hanging chads to a one-vote loss in the Supreme Court) had not occurred, would Sen. Joe Lieberman, Gore's running mate, be the Democratic nominee today?

History proceeds in a hard march indifferent to what-if games, but simplexity researchers pay them close mind. Candidates who become too smitten with the power and adulation that swirls around them may want to remind themselves of such things as well. It is great men and women who determine world events—but now and again, it's sandwiches too.

Kluger is the science editor of Time *magazine and the author of* Simplexity: Why Simple Things Become Complex (and How Complex Things Can Be Made Simple).

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

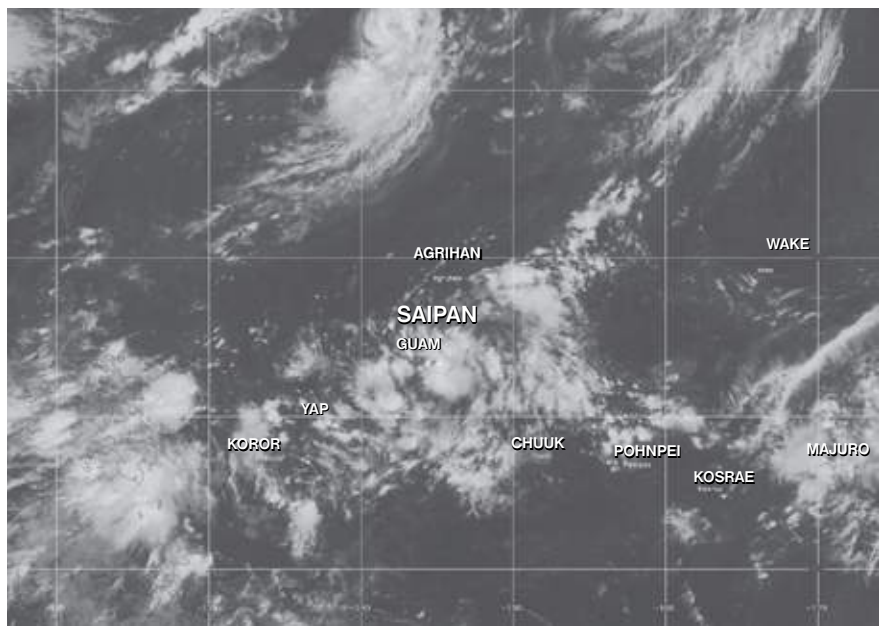
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼71
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼73

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲56	▼47
Beijing	Cloudy	▲86	▼73
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲91	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼76
London	Cloudy	▲70	▼55
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼66
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲54	▼41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼70
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Paris	Showers	▲71	▼59
Pusan	Rain	▲79	▼76
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲81	▼64
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼58
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲67	▼58
Seoul	Rain	▲82	▼73
Tokyo	Thundrstorms	▲83	▼72
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends from 17N130E southeastward between Koror and Yap to 2N137E with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 10N132E to 2N137E. A trough from 10N140E to 13N148E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in a large area across the Marianna Islands. The area is bounded by a line from 13N136E to 19N150E to 17N154E to 10N156E back to 13N136E. Low-level convergence associated with both the ITCZ and remnants of tropical storm Kika is causing scattered showers and thunderstorms from Kwajalein and Majuro atolls eastward across the dateline or within 200 miles of a line from 7N167E past 10n180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:03AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
7:07AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:15PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:53PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03AM	6:39 PM
Monday	6:03AM	6:39 PM
Tuesday	6:03AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	6:03AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	6:03AM	6:37 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:53PM	6:03AM
Monday	7:31PM	6:55AM
Tuesday	8:09PM	7:47AM
Wednesday	8:48PM	8:39AM
Thursday	9:29PM	9:34AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

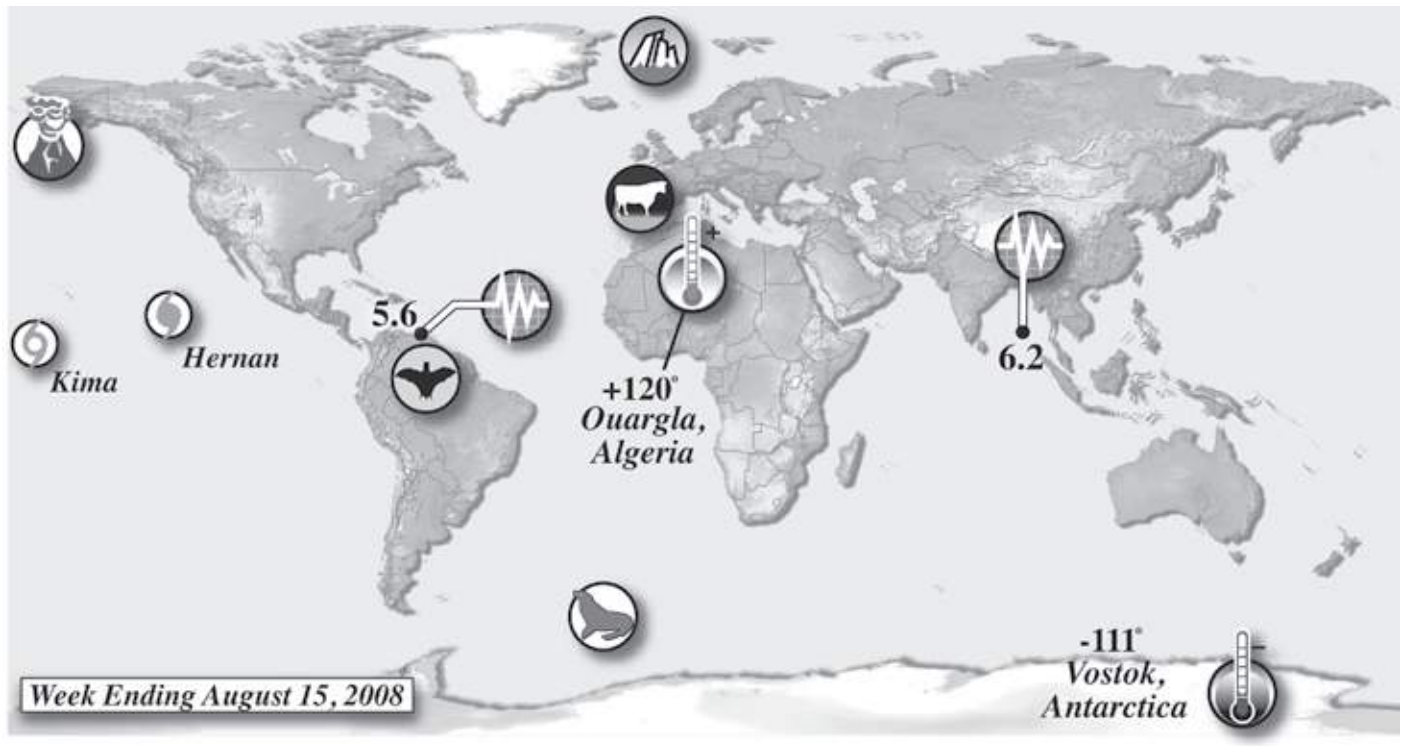
Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Arctic Meltdown

The Arctic polar ice cap began to melt at an unprecedented rate last week as scientists warned that the region could be entirely free of summer ice in merely five years instead of the previously predicted 60 years. Last month, researchers said that this summer's ice loss would probably not be as extensive as last year's record melt. But storms since then over Alaska's Beaufort Sea have pulled streams of warm air into the Arctic. Scientists won't know if this summer's melt is more expansive than last year's until the ice cover reaches its minimum in mid-September. Professor Wieslaw Maslowski of the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., says it doesn't matter which of the two years is the worst on record for Arctic ice. "The crucial point is that ice is clearly not building up enough over winter to restore cover, and that when you combine current estimates of ice thickness with the extent of the ice cap, you get a very clear indication that the Arctic is going to be ice-free in summer in five years."

Eruption

The third volcano to erupt in Alaska's Aleutian Islands within the past month sent so much ash soaring high into the atmosphere that flights in and out of Alaska had to be cancelled. The explosive eruption of Kasatochi occurred so suddenly that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel stationed on the volcanic island managed to evacuate on a passing fishing boat only shortly before the eruption began. "Fortunately, the existing seismic networks on nearby volcanoes picked up the (early signs of) activity at Kasatochi," said Tom Murray, scientist-in-charge of the Alaska Volcano Observatory.

Seal Scientists

Platoons of sea lions are being fitted with arrays of sensors so they can survey conditions in Antarctic waters so deep that human researchers can't possibly reach them. "They provide us with a very detailed record of how temperatures and salinity change, and from that information, we can infer how much sea ice forms," oceanographer Steve Rintoul told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. The 58 elephant seals can remain underwater for an hour, diving as deep as 5,000 feet and gathering 30 times the volume of data that can be collected by research buoys. Epoxy is used to glue the instruments and transmitters to the fur on the heads of the seals before the marine mammals are released to forage under the sea ice, typically 20 to 40 miles each day. Data they collect are expected to improve computer models of ocean currents in the region.

Vampire Bat Deaths

Dozens of indigenous people in Venezuela's Orinoco River delta have died from what experts believe is rabies contracted through bites from vampire bats over the past year. Sixteen tribespeople, mainly children, have been afflicted over the past two months with symptoms of fever, paralysis and an extreme fear of water. Victims tend to have convulsions and become rigid before death. Rabies-infected vampire bats are a problem in several tropical areas of South America, especially in the Amazon region of Brazil and Peru. The flying mammals usually swoop down and make small incisions with their teeth while victims are sleeping. Those who suspect they have been bitten and exhibit small puncture wounds are being given a regimen of rabies shots.

Tropical Cyclones

Hurricane Hernan formed off Mexico's Pacific coast, then traveled westward toward Hawaii, far from any land areas.

■ Tropical Storm Kima formed south of Hawaii, then eventually lost force near the International date line.

Earthquakes

A sharp quake that struck the coast of northeastern Venezuela damaged about 50 buildings around the city of Cumana, capital of Sucre state. No injuries were reported from the shaking, which was also felt in the states of Nueva Esparta and Anzoategui.

■ A 6.2 magnitude quake centered in India's remote Andaman island chain caused buildings to sway 850 miles away in the city of Chennai (Madras).

Bovine Terror

Residents of a small village in southern Spain have nearly become prisoners in their own homes due to a herd of about 150 ornery cows that have invaded the village in search of food. Driven from the countryside by a shortage of pasture, the ruminant marauders have terrorized Prado Negro, near Granada, for more than a month, destroying trees and flowerpots as well as emptying trash bins in search of food. Villagers blame the cows' owners for not providing them with ample food, along with local officials who they say should be driving the beasts away. "It's a disgrace," one resident told local media. "The cows spend more time in the main square than the meadow."

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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Gas pump malfunction sells premium for 38 cents

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Gas prices have been falling—but not that much. A problem with a pump cost a San Antonio convenience store when premium gasoline accidentally sold for 38 cents a gallon. Manager Jim Duke at a Dill Food Market says that grade of gas was supposed to be selling for $3.89 a gallon. Duke says the "pump malfunction" involving a misplaced decimal point was fixed by Wednesday afternoon. Nobody reported the mistake, which WOAI-AM reported apparently started Tuesday afternoon. Duke said he noticed a lot of vehicles were being filled with premium and people were paying at the pump. He went out to check Wednesday and noticed the price error. Duke said the independent gas station lost a lot of money. Just how much is still being tallied.

Minister gets jail for stealing flock's identities

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. (AP)—A Baptist minister in central Pennsylvania has been sentenced to one year in jail for stealing the identities of his church members. Raymond Clayton Sr., 44, was also ordered to pay more than $28,000 in restitution at his sentencing Wednesday. Clayton is the former pastor of Grace Fellowship Church near Mount Carmel. Federal prosecutors said Clayton used parishioners' personal information to obtain credit cards between November 2006 and April 2007. He pleaded guilty in March to access device fraud. The church has since disbanded.

Third donkey found wandering around Tenn. town

DYERSBURG, Tenn. (AP)—Swallows return to San Juan Capistrano, Calif. Buzzards flock to Hinckley, Ohio. Now, donkeys seem to be ambling into downtown Dyersburg. When animal control officers captured a young female donkey at Dyersburg Intermediate School on Monday, it marked the third animal of the breed that had been found on the loose in the city in two months. Animal control officer Barry McCord said the incident came about two months after a mother donkey and her baby were found wandering downtown. McCord said he thinks hard economic times may be to blame, theorizing people may be turning animals loose. Owners have not come forward in either case.

Good Housekeeping

READY, SET, DECLUTTER

Heirloom tableware——save, toss, donate?

By LIZ SEYMOUR
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Sixth of a nine-part series

WASHINGTON—More than halfway through this 11-week project to clean out my attic, I've come up with my biggest challenge so far: sorting through the fancy tableware I inherited when my parents died a few years ago. The collection includes two sets of formal china, wineglasses and other crystal from the turn of the last century, dozens of hand-stitched linen napkins and tablecloths that had never been used, and silver so tarnished I had no idea what it really looked like.

With a full-time job and two young children, I entertain infrequently, and when I do, it's not exactly a linen-napkin event. So you'd think I'd want to donate all of it or send it to a consignment shop. But I was curious. The stuff had been packed away for so long, I didn't remember what was there.

Even if the tableware is more ornate than my lifestyle, it may still be worth keeping, according to Caitlin Shear, the professional organizer who has volunteered to help me sort through my clutter. Why buy extra silverware or plates when you already have it? She says part of her job as an organizer is to encourage clients to economize by using what they already own, instead of bringing more stuff into their homes. So I began sorting it all out.

■ ■ ■ ■

CHINA

When I got married 11 years ago, I skipped the formal china part of the bridal registry, opting instead to use the almost-complete set that belonged to my grandmother. The Crown China pattern was bought by my grandfather at the turn of the 20th century and has a blue band with rose swags and green trim. It's not my colors or my style, but I was very close to my grandmother, who died when I was 16. Looking at this china reminds me of her apartment in Brooklyn and all the great Syrian dishes she cooked for my parents and me. I use it one to three times a year, so it's definitely worth keeping.

Even if the tableware is more ornate than one's lifestyle, it may still be worth keeping.

My mother's china is a Mikasa pattern, white with an ornate green border of bells and bows. It's not as cutesy as it sounds, but I don't really like it. My mother didn't really like it either. When she married my father in 1963, she did not register for anything. Instead, she went to Macy's New York flagship store about three weeks before the wedding and bought the entire set of china. She used it three times a year for 35 years and had absolutely no sentimental attachment to it.

Neither did I, until Caitlin suggested I sell it on eBay.

At first I was excited at making a bit of cash for dishes, bowls and a gravy boat I had no interest in. Then, I began remembering every Thanksgiving dinner at my house, even recollecting which foods were presented in which platters and bowls. Maybe, I thought, just maybe it's good to have some extra dishes around the house. The entire set, wrapped in quilted storage bags, is still sitting on the attic floor. I don't know what to do.

CRYSTAL

I was surprised to open one box to find 12 inexpensive wineglasses carefully wrapped in newspaper dated one week before we moved into our house in July 2001. I forgot all about these, but they're good to have around to use instead of plastic at parties. I washed them all and then repacked them in a new cardboard storage box for glasses. To go with their china, my grandparents must have had a full set of crystal. Now, just a few pieces are left: four goblets, five highball glasses and 12 old-fashioned round champagne glasses (not flutes), all with elaborate etching. Again, I took the easy way out: Washed it all, bought lovely damask cloth storage boxes and put it away.

A good tip from Caitlin on this issue: A tea-cup storage box is a perfect fit for round champagne glasses.

LINENS

So far, I'd gotten rid of nothing, so it was time to get serious. I found a box filled with ugly, stained cotton place mats and napkins I bought for my first apartment in the early 1990s. Why didn't I get rid of them three moves ago?

In another box, I found more place mats and napkins, but these were linen, hand-embroidered and nearly 45 years old. They were beautiful, yet had never been used. The napkins were still pinned to the place mats, and the sets were wrapped in plastic. I bought a clear plastic box and gathered all these beauties together. I am never buying cotton napkins at the store again! I'm storing my linen napkins in a pantry closet near the kitchen because I intend to use them more frequently than the china or crystal.

SILVER

I should really call this section "Charcoal," because that's the color of most of these treasures. I vaguely remember my mother dipping an old rag into a jar of a pink something with a chalky texture and smearing it all over a tray or ornate cup of some sort before a holiday dinner. But it's clear that hasn't been done in years, because this collection of platters, cups and vases is now mostly black.

Caitlin advised me to buy a cloth box for silverware to prevent tarnish, and I emptied my grandparents' set of silver-plated knives, forks and spoons into it. I've been trying to polish one piece a day, despite the foul smell from the tarnish remover that sends my preschoolers running out to the screened porch for safety.

I donated to Goodwill nearly a dozen pieces of silver, including trays and bread baskets. How many of these do you need? My only memories are of them sitting in the kitchen cabinet above the refrigerator. They never even made it as far as the kitchen table. I have saved a few things that I hope to polish in the next few weeks to see if they're worth keeping. A large ladle, for example, has potential but is so black it looks like the victim of a hideous fire.

THE E-BOX

Finally, I was down to the last few random items. They include the Limoges divided appetizer tray that my mother once told me she got when it "fell off a truck"; a pretty but chipped oval pottery dish that she used to hold celery stalks stuffed with blue cheese; and a trio of brass candlesticks or goblets, depending on which end is the bottom or top. I just couldn't decide what to do with them, so Caitlin put them in what she called the E-box. E stands for emotion. She says I should just let them all sit in this box for a few weeks. Eventually, it will become clear what I can part with and what I want to keep. I suspect I didn't get rid of enough this week. But I'm so full of great memories I don't even care.

Hassle-free painting

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I'm planning to paint two rooms of my house over the weekend. How can I do the entire job quickly so that I'm not working late into the night on Sunday?—Hannah J., Chicago

A: The best way to get a paint job done quickly, with minimal hassle, is to spend as much time preparing beforehand as possible. In the days leading up to the painting weekend, try to complete the following tasks.

Clear furniture from the room (or cover with a dropcloth). Take pictures off the walls, including the hardware used to hang them and all nails or screws. Remove cover plates from outlets and switches. Loosen light fixtures so that you can paint underneath them, and cover them with plastic to protect them from stray paint drops.

Remove any hardware from windows and doors. This includes curtain rods and connectors, door latches and so on. Place a dropcloth on the floor for prep work and painting.

A few days before painting, scrape away loose paint or plaster from the areas to be painted. Locate nail holes and cracks, and fill them with spackling compound. Let the compound dry for a few hours, then sand. You should also sand down ridges or bumps, and if you're painting a door as well, sand away previous layers of paint to prevent the new paint from sticking to the frame.

If you'll be painting over wooden trim that has a glossy finish, rub it lightly with steel wool or fine-grade sandpaper to roughen the finish. This will help the new paint adhere to the old.

Clean grease spots and other stains—if a stain can't be washed away, cover it with primer at the beginning of the painting stage. Dust the paint areas and then clean them with a cloth or sponge dipped in water and a low-phosphate household cleaner (or a wall cleaner). Let everything dry for 24 hours before painting.

Begin masking off areas that you don't want to paint (such as baseboards) with painter's tape the day before you start work. Gather all the paint and clean-up supplies you'll need and place them in an accessible spot.

This seems like an awful lot of work for just a couple of rooms, but these preparatory tasks can be done bit by bit in the days beforehand. By the weekend, you'll be confident that the walls are ready for the paintbrush and roller, and you can complete the job quickly and efficiently, with a little time left for dinner!

HOME TIP: Don't bother to mask off windowpanes prior to painting. Just paint the trim carefully, using a trim brush, and scrape away excess paint from the glass after it dries.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Barley and Corn Salad

This fresh summer side dish showcases vegetables that are best at their peak, including fresh corn, tomatoes and basil.

PREP: 15 minutes
COOK: 35 minutes
MAKES: 9 cups or 12 servings

2 1/2 cups water
1 1/4 cups pearl barley
5 medium ears corn, husks and silk removed
1 small bunch of basil
1/4 cup rice vinegar
1/4 cup olive oil
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 large tomatoes, cut into 1/2-inch chunks
2 green onions, thinly sliced

1. In 2-quart saucepan, heat water to boiling over high heat. Stir in barley; heat to boiling. Reduce heat to low; cover and simmer 30 to 35 minutes or until barley is tender.

2. Meanwhile, place corn on plate in microwave oven. Cook on High 4 to 5 minutes, turning and rearranging corn halfway through cooking. Cool slightly until easy to handle. Chop enough basil leaves to equal 1/3 cup; reserve remaining basil for garnish.

3. With sharp knife, cut corn kernels from cobs. In large bowl, with fork, mix vinegar, oil, salt and pepper; stir in corn, warm barley, tomatoes, green onions and chopped basil until combined. If not serving right away, cover and refrigerate up to 4 hours. Garnish with basil leaves.

Easy-Way Lemonade

Start this recipe early in the day.

2 lemons, thinly sliced
1/2 cup sugar
4 cups boiling water
Ice cubes

1. Into a large, heat-safe bowl or pitcher, placed the sliced lemons and sugar.

2. Pour in boiling water; stir until sugar is dissolved. Refrigerate until chilled.

3. To serve, pour mixture over ice cubes in chilled 8-ounce glasses. Serve immediately.

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Painted porch ceilings embrace Southern tradition

By TERRI SAPIENZA
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—When Rebecca Parlakian and Larry Giammo renovated their suburban 1940s farmhouse five years ago, they added a porch. To make the addition look and feel old, as if it had always been there, they installed beadboard on the ceiling. The final touch: painting the beadboard a pale sky blue.

"We got the idea from walking through Rockville's (Md.) historic district, where there are lots of houses with blue ceilings," Parlakian says. "For older homes, it just seems like part of the dressing now. It's so airy and fresh ... and so summery."

"When you pull in the driveway, it's very welcoming" says Adina Brosnan-McGee about the blue porch ceiling of her Cape Cod in suburban Hyattsville, Md. Her choice: Benjamin Moore's Caribbean Breeze, a tropical turquoise.

From the palest of powder blues to varying shades of aqua, teal, cobalt, robin's-egg, periwinkle and gray, blue porch ceilings are popping up all across town. Once just an old Southern tradition, this subtle design detail has made its way North and is being introduced to new generations.

The cerulean color is undeniably pretty, but that's not the only reason people are painting with blues.

Some have heard that the color fools spiders and wasps into thinking the ceiling is the sky and, therefore, not a place where they can hang out or build webs and nests (a theory many homeowners say is untrue). Others believe blue is a harbinger of good luck. And some are convinced that the color actually extends daylight and promotes a calming, cooling and relaxing atmosphere.

Then there are folks from the South who believe blue ceilings scare away evil spirits.

It's an tradition that can be credited to the Gullah/Geechee culture, a mix of African tribes that made up a large part of the slave population once found in the Carolina Low Country (from Georgetown, S.C., through the Georgia Sea Islands), says Leigh Handal, a director at the Historic Charleston Foundation. These people brought many customs and myths with them to the United States, including the superstition that the color blue warded off evil spirits ("haints," or haunts). The Gullah people would paint the woodwork around their windows and doorways to ward off the haints, Handal says. This painting practice spilled over onto porch ceilings, and the color came to be known as "haint blue."

But don't call the foundation to find out the exact color. "There is no official haint blue color," Handal says. "The Gullahs used whatever pigments of paint they could get their hands on. Haint blue is just blue." (That said, the Historic Charleston Foundation has two licensed paint collections through Duron Paints, featuring a color that represents their interpretation of haint blue, a deep shade of turquoise called "Gullah Blue.")

Yet today's homeowners are fixated on finding the perfect shade.

Customers inquire about blue ceilings "all the time," says Carl Langhorne, an assistant manager at Strosniders Hardware Store in suburban Bethesda, Md., who said that he has noticed an increased interest in the past two years. "Some people are manic about it. They get three, four, five different quarts trying to get the right color. Some people try to mimic the sky. Others don't care as long as they have it and as long as it's blue."

He has heard the Gullah myths but says he thinks most people paint with blue simply because it makes them feel good. "It gives you a nice relaxing, mellow vibe," he says. "I like it. It beats basic white."

Langhorne starts his customers' search with a few suggestions across the spectrum of blues: Benjamin Moore's Mystical Blue ("more of a true blue"), Crystal Springs ("blue with a little green to it") and White Satin ("periwinkle blue"). The choice should ultimately be based on the other colors on the house and what they like best, he says. "I always tell them, `It's your ceiling,' " he says, "You can do anything you want."

But most paint experts agree that the best shade of blue is the one that fits the look of the house. "You don't want (a blue ceiling) to look like an afterthought or like it came out of nowhere," cautions Zoe Kyriacos, architectural color consultant for Colors by Zoe in suburban Takoma Park, Md. "You want to make it look like it was part of the package."

She says blue can be used on any style of house; it just depends on the blue. "A traditional house would use a more traditional color, something lighter. On a contemporary house you can do something bolder, something brighter." Kyriacos prefers blues with hints of other colors, which make the blue more complex and interesting to look at, she says. A blue with a drop of red in it, for instance, adds "a little warmth."

Also consider the natural light. Colors tend to get washed-out when used outdoors, so there's a little wiggle room to go darker than you would indoors. But be careful not to go too dark. "You want to keep the blue soft, light and airy," Langhorne says. "If you go too dark, it will bring your ceiling down and make the space feel smaller and more closed in, even outside."

For Parlakian, the process was easy. She simply picked a subtle shade she liked (Benjamin Moore's Arctic Blue) and painted.

And now that she has gone blue, she'll never go back.

Some homeowners say painting the ceiling of their porch helps promote a calm, cool atmosphere. The old Southern tradition has made its way north and is being introduced to new generations.

THE WASHINGTON POST

HUES YOU CAN USE

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Suddenly have the urge to paint your porch ceiling? Here are more blues to consider:

C2: Oracle, Fresco, Kind of Blue

Sherwin-Williams: Atmospheric, Meander Blue, Waterscape

Benjamin Moore: Ice Blue, Crystal Blue, Whispering Spring

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Edward M. Ayuyu, ("Trustor"), on or about September 17, 2001 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on September 17, 2001 under Document No. 01-1942 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 345 R 426, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 929 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 345 R 09 DATED SEPTEMBER 25, 1984, COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S FILE NO. 84-2049, THE DESCRIPTION THEREIN BEING INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on July 20, 2006. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC §4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on August 18, 2008 at 11:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Rota Field Office, Sonton, P.O. Box 527, Rota, MP 96951 under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than $20,000.00, the total amount due under the VA loan plus Trustee's expenses.

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check and shall be paid within 72 hours from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 15th day of July 2008.

/S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director, NMHC

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 50514, SAIPAN, MP 96950
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOT IN TATGUA, ROTA FOR SALE OR LEASE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation wishes to inform the general public of the sale or lease of Lot No. 257 R 35 located in Tatgua, Rota, more particularly described as follows:

Lot No. 257 R 35 containing an area of 750 square meters, more or less, more particularly described on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 257 R 03, dated October 17, 1995, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 95-2671, dated October 20, 1995, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Interested firms of individuals are encouraged to submit their sealed offers to purchase or lease, addressed to Mr. Manuel A. Sablan, Chairman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. All offers to purchase or lease said property must be sealed and must be received no later than August 18, 2008, at 4:30 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by August 18, 2008 and must be received no later than August 27, 2008 by 4:00 p.m. at which time all offers received will be opened and reviewed by NMHC. Off-island bidders must notify the NMHC Corporate Director in writing (by any mode of written communication including facsimile or other electronic transmission) of their intent to bid in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual bid documents. Minimum bid shall not be less than $40,000.00. All other bids, including untimely sealed bids will be rejected.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all offers received in the best interest of NMHC.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the offered purchase price must be paid by the winning bidder if the NMHC notifies the same of his, her or their selection. Payment must be received no later than August 28, 2008 by 4:00 p.m. The remaining balance of the offered purchase price shall then be due within ten (10) calendar days of said notification. Failure to make payment of the immediate deposit or the remaining balance within ten (10) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the winning bidder of his, her or their ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of said bidder's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will automatically revert to NMHC.

Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of NMHC in the property are being sold AS IS and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property or any related documents will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, at 234-6866/7689 for more information.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

The Good Life

The best spa music is the kind that puts you to sleep

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Gemini Sun artists Fridrik Karlsson, left, and Nicholas Gunn, who says the music often played in spa treatment rooms "lets you unwind and reflect."

By VALLI HERMAN

(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

In countless spa treatment rooms, therapists knead muscles and array rocks on chakras to the sound of tinkling chimes, muffled chants and meandering guitars.

The person lying under the sheets likely will emerge from the treatment calm and relaxed, still smelling the scented massage lotions, but with virtually no recollection of the music wafting through the room. And some would say that's a blessing. One man's soothing soundtrack "performed using organic flutes" and "inspired by the power and magic of crystals" is another's didgeridoo torture.

Ubiquitous, and striving to be inconspicuous, so-called spa music—perhaps the only genre that counts itself successful when it manages not to annoy— struggles for recognition, definition and, in the mainstream, respect. Millions know who tops the pop charts, but only the devoted can name the stars who show up in New Age Reporter, which tracks the Internet and radio airplay for the top 100 New Age, ambient or world music albums, or guess which collection of whale songs or harp electronica will appear on the Coalition of Visionary Resources' CD of the year.

The best snapshot of the genre may be Billboard's New Age and world charts, which map a parallel universe where labels such as Malibu's Gemini Sun are major players. The fastest-growing and most significant spa music label in Southern California, Gemini Sun was founded six years ago by Nicholas Gunn, a classically trained platinum-selling flutist and former fashion model.

For 55 weeks running, songs by Gemini Sun artists have been among the top 15 on Billboard's New Age chart, Gunn says. And the label's new release, "Echoes of Light and Shadow" by David Arkenstone, a three-time Grammy nominee, hit the No. 7 slot on the New Age Reporter chart earlier this month.

"As crazy as it may seem," Gunn says with a hint of sarcasm, "there are people who actually care about this stuff."

His brand of music, he adds, "is alive and well, but not in the mainstream consciousness." Most often, it's sold in bookstores such as Barnes & Noble and Borders and on the Web at Amazon.com or Gemini Sun's site, www.geminisunrecords.com.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sounds of the spa: The albums are created to be a soothing form of white noise.

He's signed contracts with veteran musicians from around the world who are creating music to be heard inside or outside spa walls. Culled from New Age, Celtic, world, ambient, chill, American Indian and other categories, it's a genre Gunn calls "lifestyle music."

Lately, Gunn's label is gathering albums created expressly for the spa experience. He's been selling a new Spa Cents program that he likens to Netflix for spa music. He's licensed the United Kingdom's Paul Lawler, who composes and performs music to accompany healing arts, notably his CDs "True Reiki," "True Chakras" and "True Champissage: Indian Head Massage." (You don't see a lot of "SexyBacks" in this genre.)

In a coup, Gemini Sun recently became the exclusive U.S. distributor of the spa-centric work of Fridrik Karlsson ("the Eric Clapton of Iceland"), whose "Spiritual Fitness" and "Magical Relaxation" albums have been top sellers in 40 countries. Two collections of recordings, "The Feel Good Collection" and the new lounge-inflected "iChill Music," offer soundscapes composed to accompany yoga, reiki, meditation or simple relaxation.

Even with the expertise and success of Karlsson's recordings, Gunn has a tough job ahead of him. Music's role in a spa treatment is to set a mood—then disappear.

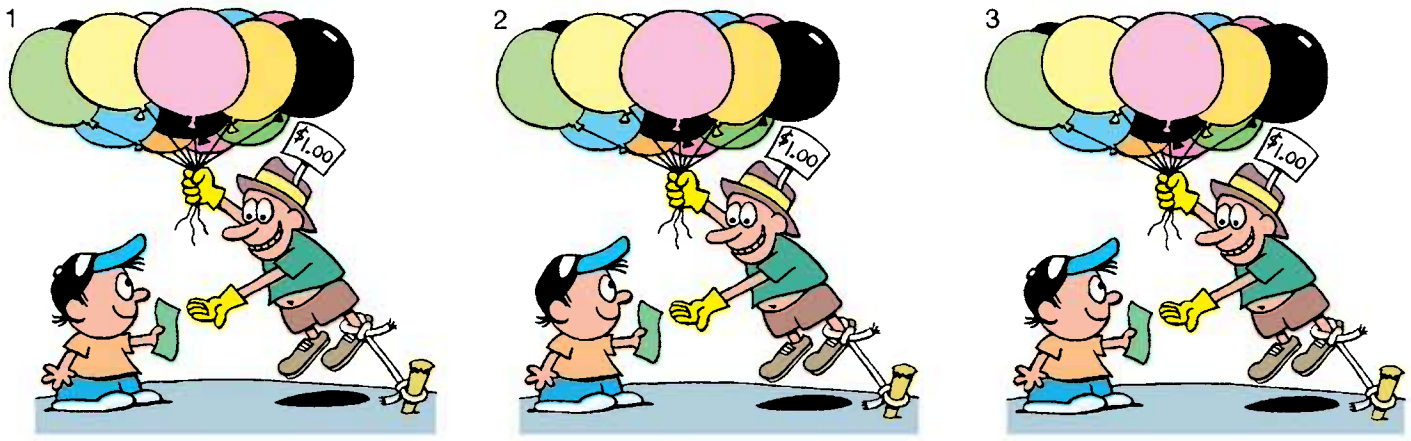
"It's a challenge to make the music not too intrusive," says Karlsson, who visited Gunn in Malibu recently. "The more successful it is, the less you notice it."

"Younger kids come to us and say, `That music makes me sleepy,' " Gunn says. "I say, `That's the best compliment in the world.' Think about it, when you are falling asleep, you want to be in a really nice space where you feel secure, safe and comfortable."

This is the essential paradox of spa music: When it's really good, it's a soothing form of white noise. And when it's great, all the whales, flutes and tablas float into a sea of zzzs. You won't even know they're there.

Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

Which scene is slightly different from the other two?

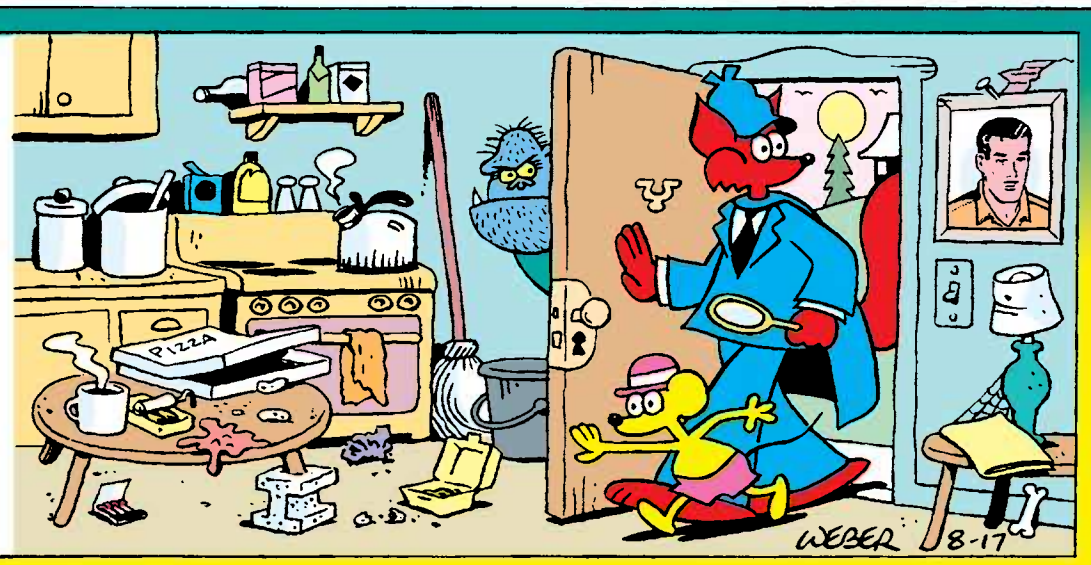


Answer -- Number two.

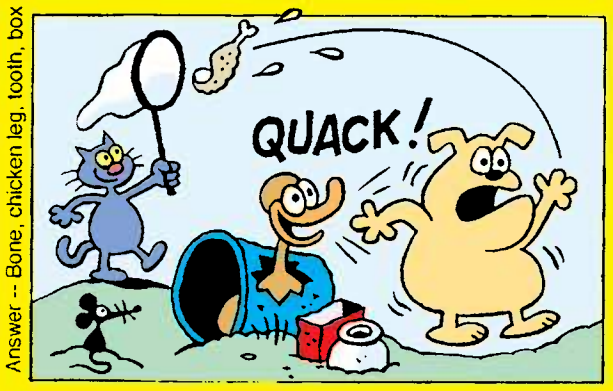
The Forest Bank was robbed this morning. Witnesses report Harry Ape was the robber. A short while ago Slylock Fox received a tip stating Harry is hiding in this abandoned house. Before Slylock spotted Harry, what evidence did he observe that indicates someone has been here recently?

Solution -- There is steam rising from the teapot and cup.

Read more Slylock Fox puzzles at www.kidcartoonists.com



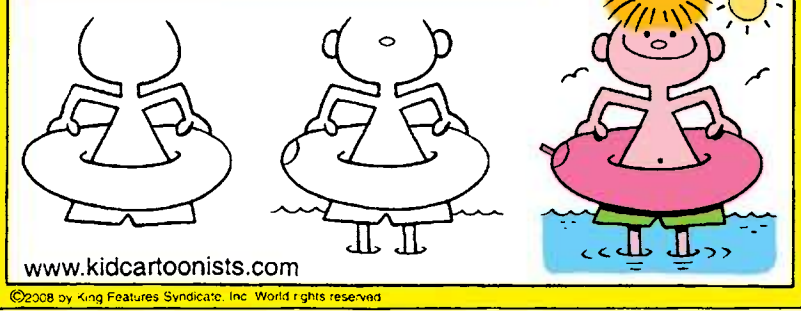
Find six differences between these panels.



Answer -- Bone, chicken leg, tooth, box top, shadow and duck

New! The fourth **Find the six differences** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4,** P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

HOW TO DRAW a boy at the beach



www.kidcartoonists.com

YOUR DRAWING

Our terrific featured artist is Julia Whitcomb, age 10, of Janesville, WI

Submit your drawings at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

Which country has the world's longest coastline?

a) Australia
b) Canada
c) India

Answer -- b) Canada's coastline is the longest at about 152,000 miles (including the coastlines of the country's many islands.)

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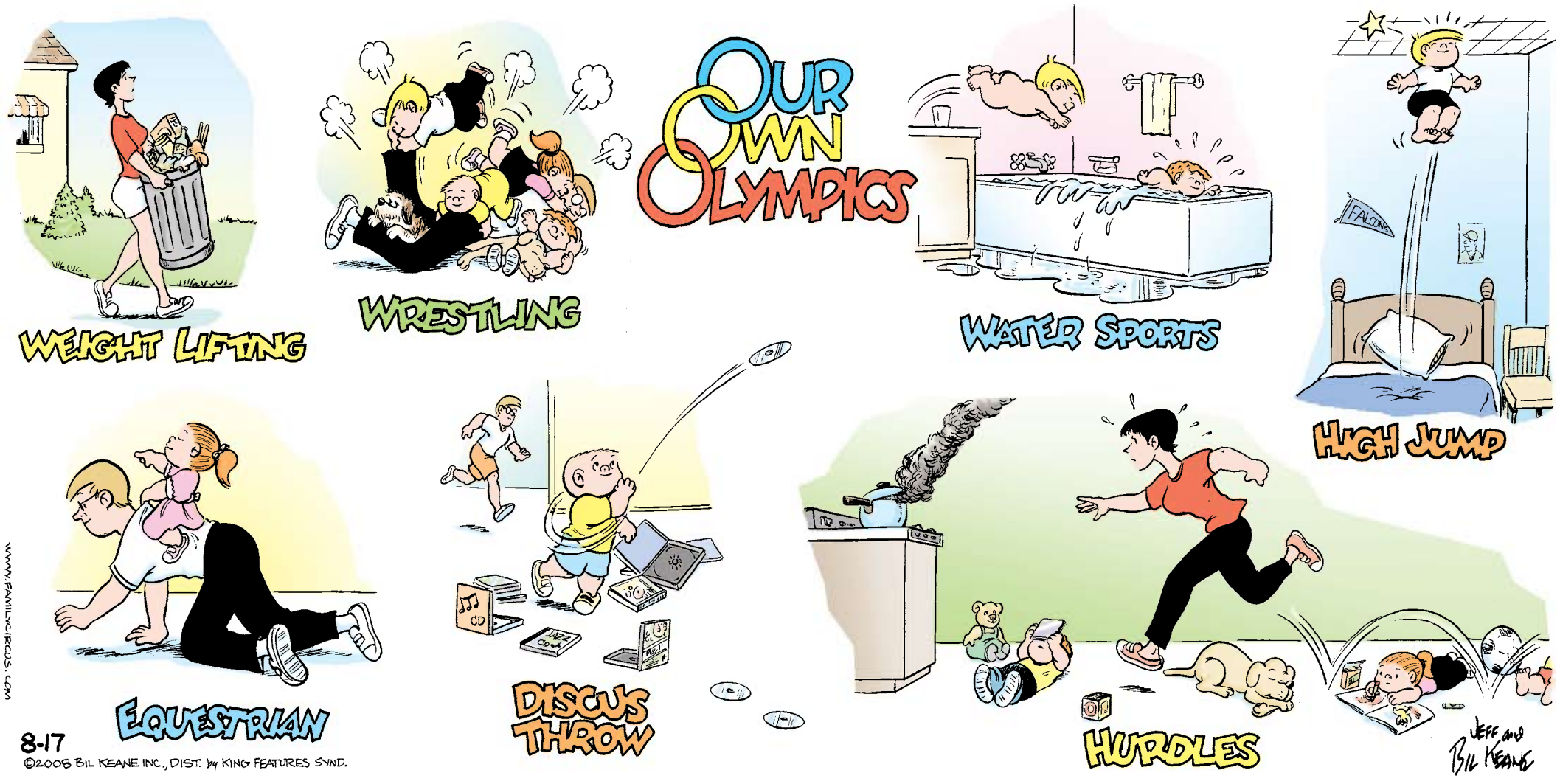
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane

Our Own Olympics



8-17

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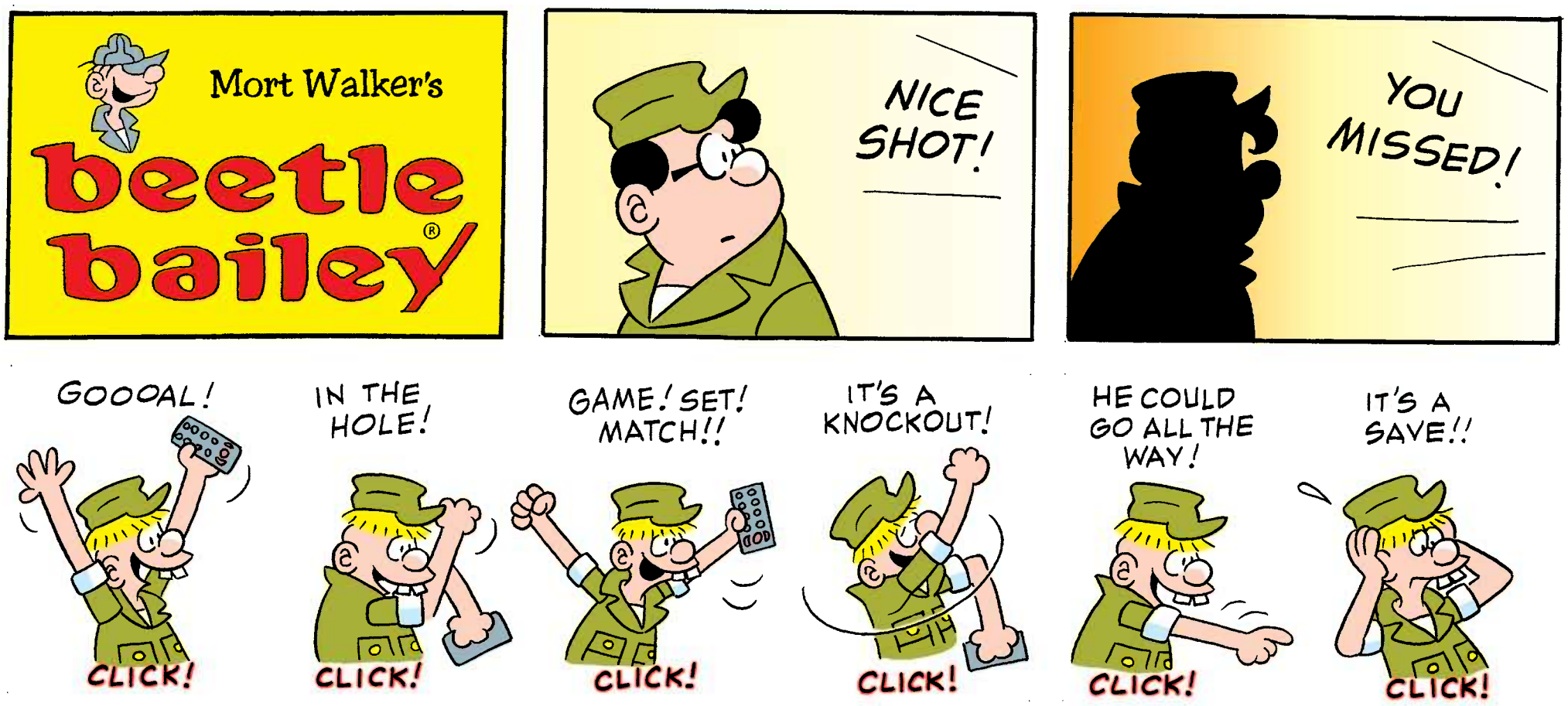
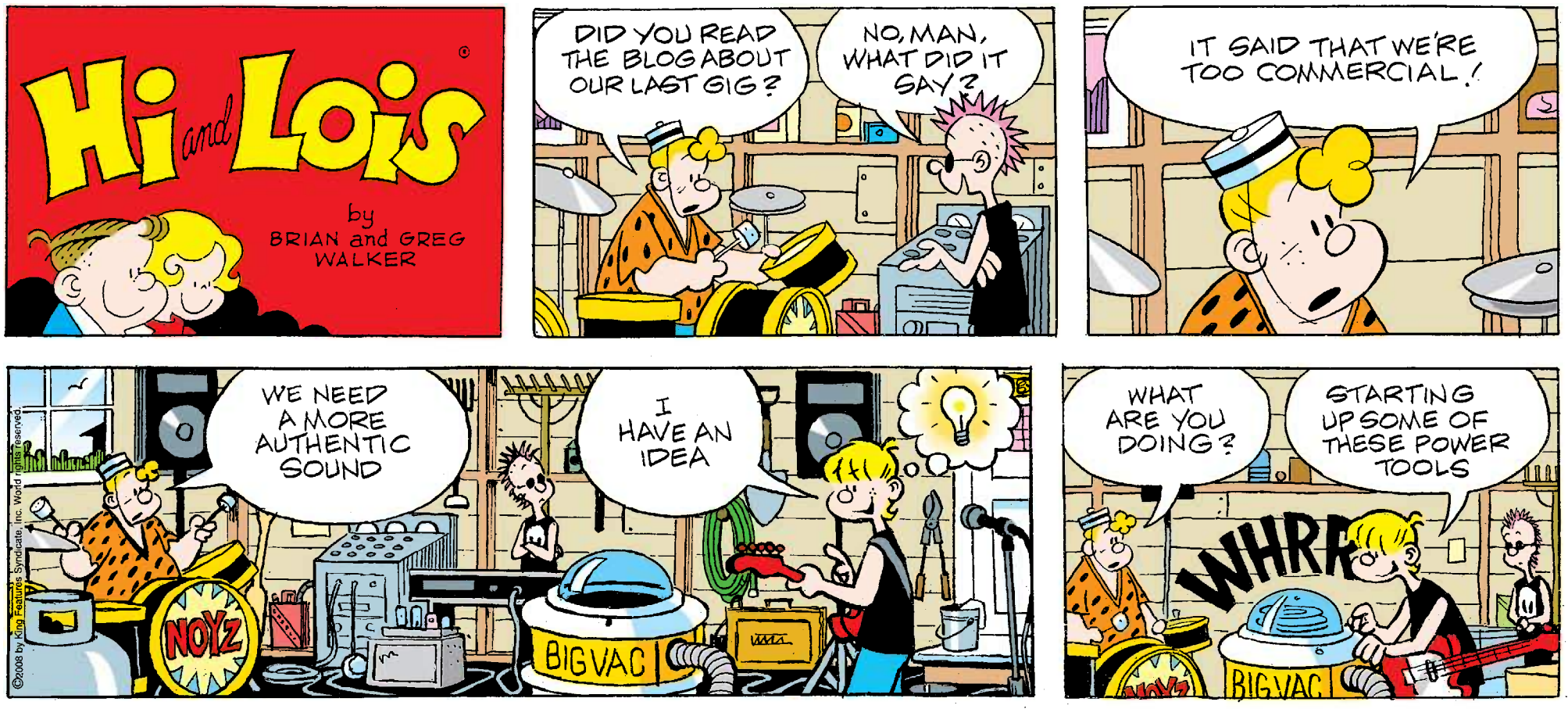
WWW.FAMILYCIRCUS.COM


Mort Walker's
beetle bailey®
NICE SHOT!
YOU MISSED!
GOOOAL!
CLICK!
IN THE HOLE!
CLICK!
GAME! SET! MATCH!!
CLICK!
IT'S A KNOCKOUT!
CLICK!
HE COULD GO ALL THE WAY!
CLICK!
IT'S A SAVE!!
CLICK!
NOTHING BUT NET!
CLICK!
GOING, GOING, GONE!
CLICK!
CRASH!!
CLICK!
8-17
GREG+ MORT WALKER
ZERO'S FAVORITE SPORT IS CHANNEL SURFING
IT'S A GIMME!
©2008 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
BLONDIE
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL
SWOOSH!
SWOOSH!
WHOOSH
ZIP!
8-17
www.blondie.com
GULP! GULP! GULP!
ATTA BOY, DAG!
ZOOM
© 2008 King Features Syndicate Inc. World Rights Reserved.
YOU ACTUALLY TIMED YOURSELF FROM YOUR DESK TO THE WATER COOLER AND BACK, ALL DAY ?!
WELL, YEAH, ONCE I SET THE NEW WORLD RECORD, I HAD TO KEEP GOING UNTIL I BROKE IT!


Hi and Lois
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER
DID YOU READ THE BLOG ABOUT OUR LAST GIG?
NO, MAN, WHAT DID IT SAY?
IT SAID THAT WE'RE TOO COMMERCIAL.!
WE NEED A MORE AUTHENTIC SOUND
I HAVE AN IDEA
NOYZ
BIG VAC
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
STARTING UP SOME OF THESE POWER TOOLS
WHRR
BIG VAC
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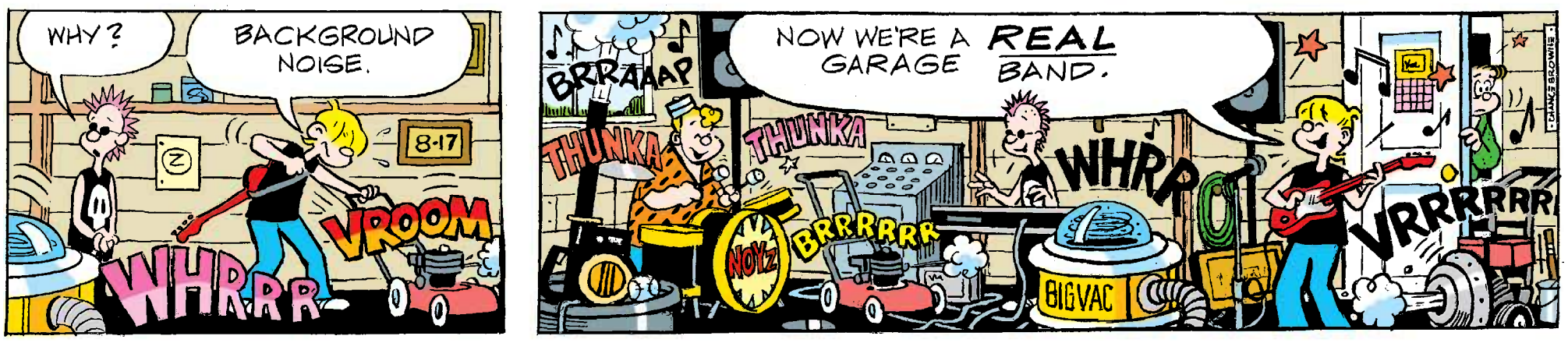
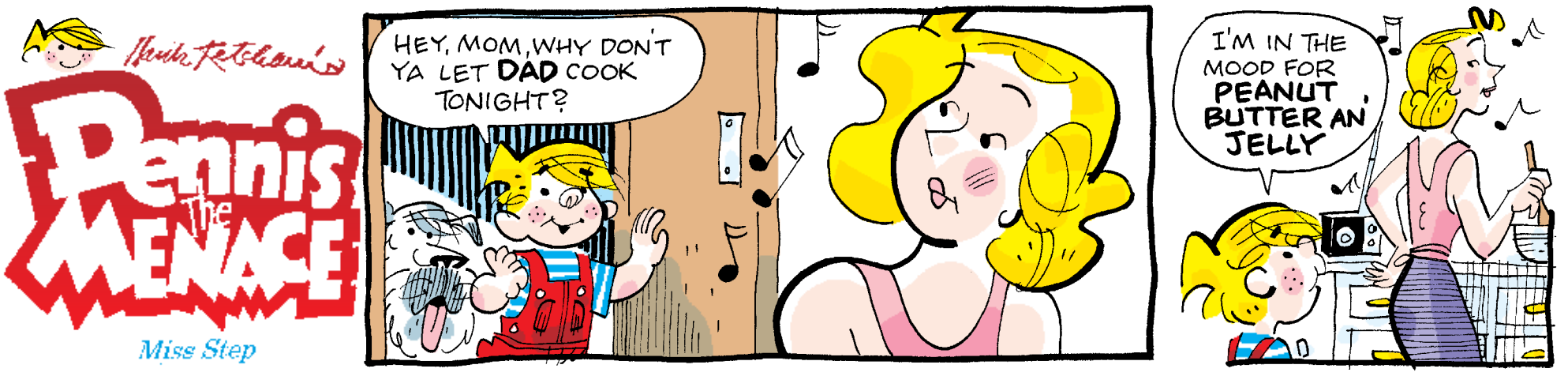
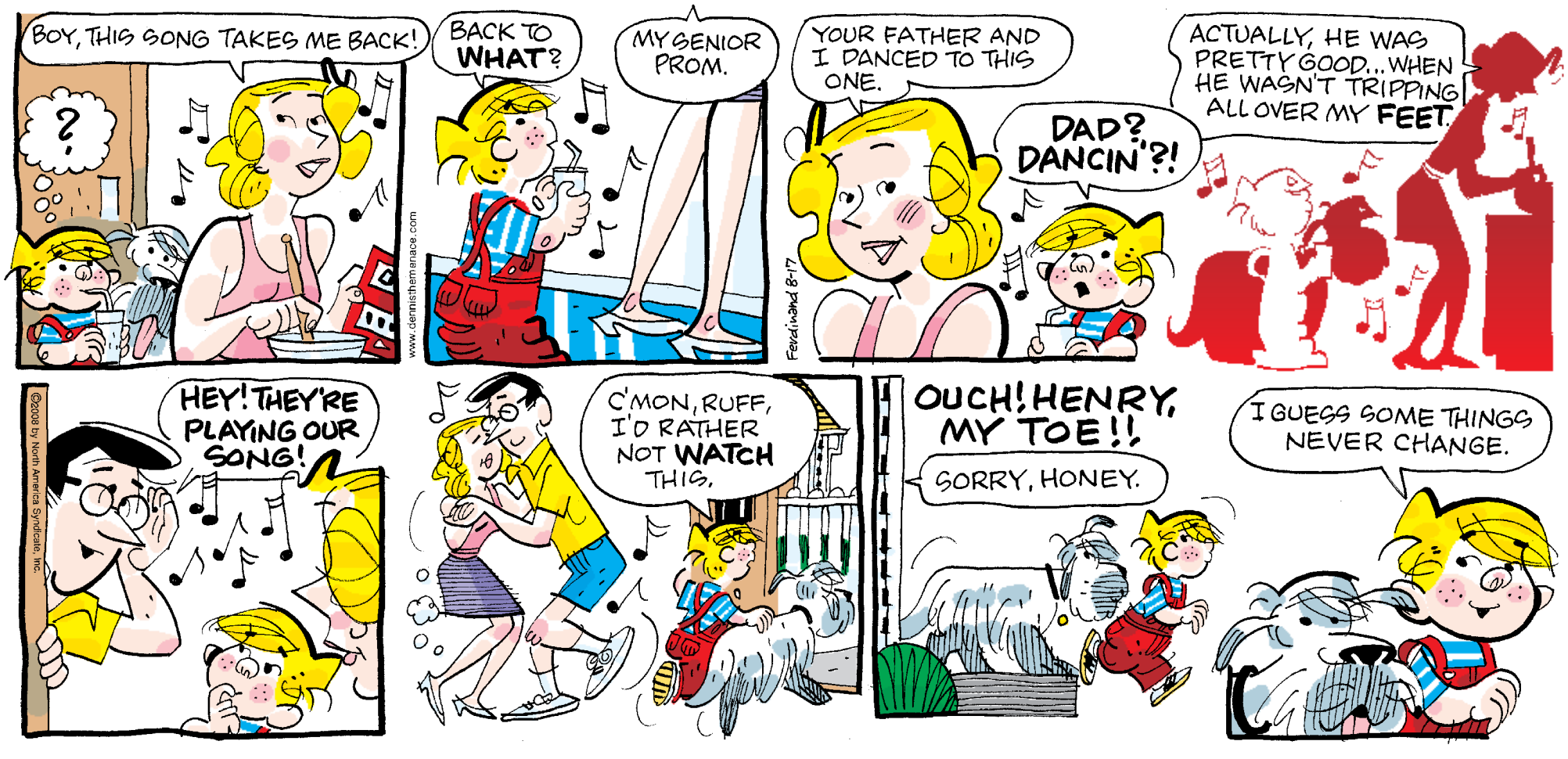

WHY?
BACKGROUND NOISE.
8-17
WHRRRR
VROOM
BRRAAAP
THUNKA
THUNKA
NOW WE'RE A GARAGE REAL BAND.
NOYZ
BRRRRRRR
WHRR
BIG VAC
VRRRRRRR
©MANG BROWNE


Hank Ketcham's
Dennis the MENACE
Miss Step
HEY, MOM, WHY DON'T YA LET DAD COOK TONIGHT?
I'M IN THE MOOD FOR PEANUT BUTTER AN' JELLY


BOY, THIS SONG TAKES ME BACK!
?
BACK TO WHAT?
MY SENIOR PROM.
www.dennisthemenace.com
YOUR FATHER AND I DANCED TO THIS ONE.
DAD? DANCIN'?!
Ferdinand 8-17
ACTUALLY, HE WAS PRETTY GOOD.. WHEN HE WASN'T TRIPPING ALL OVER MY FEET.
HEY! THEY'RE PLAYING OUR SONG!
©2008 by North America Syndicate, Inc.
C'MON, RUFF, I'D RATHER NOT WATCH THIS.
OUCH! HENRY, MY TOE!!
SORRY, HONEY.
I GUESS SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
DREAM GLASSWARE, MAY I HELP YOU?
I SURE HOPE SO.
I JUST RECEIVED A VASE THAT I ORDERED FROM YOUR WEB SITE.
IS THERE A PROBLEM?
OH, NO. IT ARRIVED IN PERFECT CONDITION.
SO THEN IT WAS THE WRONG ITEM?
WELL, YES.
I'M SORRY. WAS THE MERCHANDISE DAMAGED IN SHIPPING?
NO. IT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED.
OKAAAAAY... WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
POP!
THE NEXT TIME I ORDER SOMETHING FROM YOU, CAN YOU PLEASE SEND IT WITHOUT THE BUBBLE WRAP?
POPPITY!
©2008, BABY BLUES PARTNERSHIP DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE 8-17

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) There might still be some uncertainty about the decision you made. But a quick check of the facts should reassure you that you're doing the right thing.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The tidy Taurean needs to be a little more flexible about accepting some changes to those carefully made plans. You might be pleasantly surprised by what follows.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Consider stepping away from your concentrated focus on your new project for a bit so you can get some perspective on what you've done and where you plan to take it.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The understandably angry Crab might not want to accept the reason why someone might have tried to hurt you. But at least you'll have an insight into why it happened.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) There might be some facts you still need to know before leaping onto center stage. Best to move carefully at this time so that you can observe what's happening around you.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) It's a good time to expand your outlook by getting out and around, whether you do some long-range traveling or just explore the great things to see closer to home.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your wise counsel continues to be needed as that family situation works itself out. Meanwhile, the decisions you made on your job begin to pay off quite nicely.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your job situation brightens thanks to all your hard work. Now, spend some time repairing a personal relationship you might have neglected for too long.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Aspects favor action in the workplace. Line up your facts and show your superiors why you're the one they're looking for.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your hard work pays off on the job. Personal relationships can also benefit from more of your time and attention. Spend the weekend with loved ones.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Early feedback on your project might be disappointing. But don't be discouraged. Use it to make needed adjustments, then submit it to your superiors again.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Flattery could lure the otherwise sensible Fish into making an unwise decision. Be careful. All that praise might be an attempt to reel you in before you can learn the facts.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a wonderful sense of who you are. You are a shining example to others, helping them believe in themselves and what they can do.

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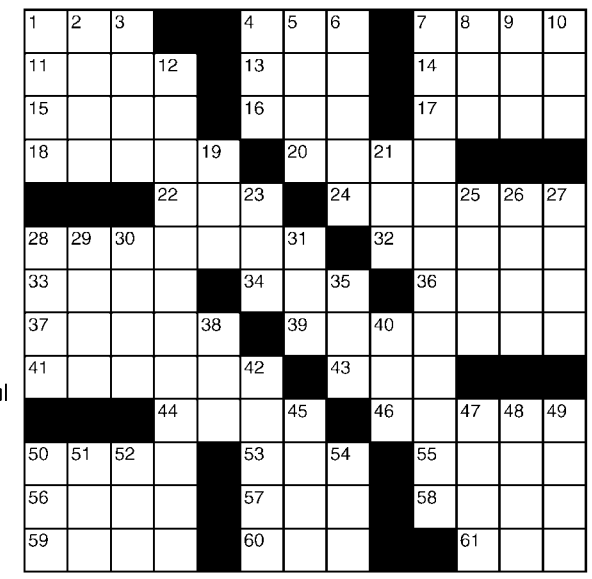
King Crossword



ACROSS

1 Spinning meas.
4 Museum fill
7 Taverns
11 Winged
13 Sticky stuff
14 Iridescent gem
15 Sudanese Republic, today
16 Dine on
17 Refute a claim
18 Slim, graceful woman
20 Sandwich Shop
22 Dog's doctor
24 Certain destinations
28 Nightwear
32 High nest
33 The yoke's on them
34 Bliss
36 Discourteous
37 Large quantities
39 Resident
41 More scary
43 Taste the tea
44 Hammer's target
46 Card-suit symbol
50 Rough journey
53 Two (Sp.)
55 Not good at all
56 Throw hard
57 Conceit
58 Disencumbers
59 Shrek, e.g.
60 Reed or Harrison
61 Female deer

DOWN

1 St. Louis team
2 Theater presentation
3 Shopping site
4 Candle count
5 Street
6 Clan emblem
7 Historical romance of a sort
8 Gorilla
9 Jogged
10 Crafty
12 He slept for 20 years
19 Height of fashion?
21 Meadow
23 - Mahal
25 Actress Penelope
26 Staffer
27 Witnessed
28 Sit for a snapshot
29 Wheelbase terminus
30 Scoff
31 Turf
35 No opponent
38 Vast expanse
40 Serbian city
42 Passenger
45 Box seats?
47 Very eager
48 Carthaginian queen
49 Otherwise
50 Nevertheless, for short
51 Carpet
52 Blunder
54 Red -

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top ten

Sweatiest Cities

1. Phoenix
2. Las Vegas
3. Tallahassee, Fla.
4. Tucson, Ariz.
5. Memphis, Tenn.
6. Miami
7. Houston
8. Tampa, Fla.
9. Baton Rouge, La.
10. Fort Myers, Fla.

Source: Old Spice

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KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

B	A	H	■	A	S	A	P	■	S	H	A	M
I	C	E	■	N	I	N	A	■	L	I	R	A
T	H	I	N	K	B	I	G	■	U	S	E	D
E	E	R	I	L	Y	■	E	O	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	G	E	L	■	B	I	G	T	O	P
S	I	G	H	T	■	P	O	L	■	I	D	A
K	N	O	T	■	P	A	Y	■	S	T	I	R
I	D	O	■	F	A	X	■	P	H	O	N	E
T	O	P	D	O	G	■	B	O	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	G	O	■	A	R	R	I	V	E
E	L	A	N	■	D	O	G	T	I	R	E	D
Y	A	W	S	■	A	R	E	A	■	I	R	E
E	P	E	E	■	S	E	L	L	■	S	A	N

United States

Is John Edwards' former aide covering for him?

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—For nearly a decade, Andrew Young was John Edwards' loyal foot soldier as Edwards rocketed from millionaire trial lawyer to U.S. senator to two-time White House hopeful.

When Edwards needed someone to scout locations for a Senate campaign office, he sent Young. When TV trucks converged on Edwards' house in 2003 and damaged the neighbors' lawns, Young was told to take care of it. When it came time to raise money for Edwards' second run at the White House, Young was there to work the phones.

And when Edwards was confronted with the biggest crisis of his political career, Young was there again: After the National Enquirer reported that Edwards had an affair with a video producer, Young issued a statement in December saying that he—and not the candidate—was the father of the woman's baby.

But given Young's unswerving devotion to Edwards—and given Edwards' lies in initially denying he cheated on his wife—some campaign watchers wonder whether Young, a 42-year-old married man, is taking the fall for his boss.

"Given the pattern of the thing, it's not unreasonable for people to ask" whether the child belongs to Edwards, said Gary Pearce, a longtime Democratic operative in North Carolina and a consultant to Edwards' 1998 Senate bid. "The media and a large chunk of the public, including some of John's supporters, still question whether he's told the whole truth."

Around the same time that Young put out a terse statement through his lawyer in which he claimed to be the baby's father, Edwards' former mistress, Rielle Hunter, issued her own statement saying the same thing.

Then, only weeks before the first vote of the 2008 presidential election season took place in Iowa, Young abruptly left the Edwards campaign and his $90,000-a-year job as a fundraiser, and dropped out of sight. He packed up and left North Carolina for California in a move bankrolled by Edwards' national fundraiser.

AP

In this Dec. 27, 2006 photo provided by the National Enquirer, former U.S. Sen. John Edwards, D-NC, is shown with videographer Rielle Hunter in the 9th Ward of New Orleans, La.

NYC heroes lift bus off pregnant woman; baby lives

NEW YORK (AP)—Dozens of strangers converged from all directions to lift a 5-ton bus off the body of a pregnant woman - a superhuman effort that managed to save the life of her child but was too late for her.

Seven months pregnant, Donnette Sanz was crossing one of the busiest intersections in the Bronx on her lunch break Thursday when she was struck by a van whose brakes failed. The impact sent the 33-year-old NYPD traffic agent flying into the path of a yellow school bus and pinned her underneath.

About 30 people helped lift the bus, and Sanz was rushed to a hospital, where doctors delivered her boy by Caesarean section. The 3-pound, 6-ounce infant, named Sean Michael, was in critical condition Friday but showing signs of improvement.

"This is such an unbelievable tragedy that took place; it took away one of our own," said James Huntley, president of the union that represents traffic agents. "But I'm so thankful to the city of New York and to the citizens who came to her aid, like real heroes out of a comic book."

Mourners and neighborhood residents gathered outside the hospital Friday to pray for Sanz and her child.

The 72-year-old van driver, Walter Walker, pleaded not guilty Friday to criminally negligent homicide and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. He was being held on $100,000 bail, and his attorney didn't immediately return a phone call.

Police said in a court filing that the brakes on Walker's van had deteriorated so badly that the vehicle was unsafe to drive. Walker told investigators he had some repairs done six months ago but knew there were still problems.

Georgia men claim hairy, frozen corpse is Bigfoot

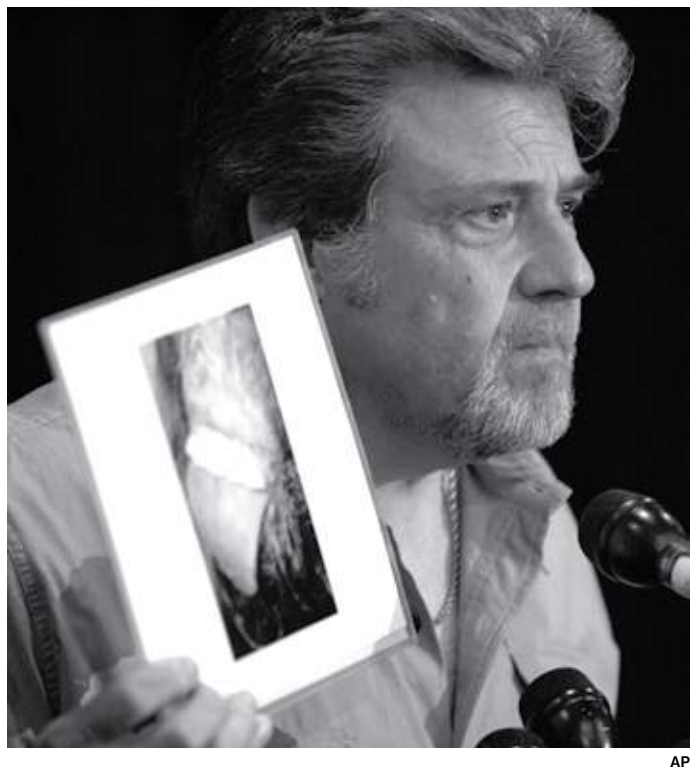
PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP)—Bigfoot or big fat lie? Whenever someone reports sighting the hairy beast of yore (details always fuzzy) or capturing the hirsute humanoid on film (images always grainy), it scares up a dubious debate of international proportions. Friday was just the latest episode in the Sasquatch show, as unreal as it may be.

Two men who claim to have stumbled across a Bigfoot corpse in the woods of northern Georgia indignantly stood by their story at a news conference in Palo Alto during which they offered an e-mail from a scientist as evidence and acknowledged they wouldn't mind making a few bucks from the "find" they have kept stuffed in a freezer for over a month.

"Everyone who has talked down to us is going to eat their words," predicted Matt Whitton, an officer on medical leave from the Clayton County Police Department.

Whitton and Rick Dyer, a former corrections officer, announced the discovery in early July on YouTube videos and their Web site. Although they did not consider themselves devoted Bigfoot trackers before then, they have since started offering weekend search expeditions in Georgia for $499. The specimen they bagged, the men say, was one of several apelike creatures they spotted cavorting in the woods.

As they faced a skeptical audience of several hundred journalists and Bigfoot fans that included one curiosity seeker in a Chewbacca suit, the pair were joined Friday by Tom Biscardi, head of a group called Searching for Bigfoot. Other Bigfoot hunters call Biscardi a huckster looking for media attention.



AP

Bigfoot hunter Tom Biscardi holds a photo of what he claims to be the mouth and teeth of a deceased bigfoot or sasquatch creature during a news conference Friday, Aug. 15, 2008, in Palo Alto, Calif.

Construction begins on $57M San Diego border fence

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Scrapers and bulldozers began filling a deep canyon Friday to make way for a border fence in the southwestern corner of the United States after 12 years of planning, environmental reviews and legal challenges.

The 3 1/2-mile stretch extends from a state park on an oceanfront cliff through a canyon known as Smuggler's Gulch. The gorge was overrun by illegal immigrants until U.S. authorities launched a crackdown in the 1990s that pushed traffic to the remote mountains and deserts of California and Arizona.

At a cost of about $16 million a mile, the fence will be far more expensive than fences the U.S. government is building elsewhere along the nation's 1,952-mile border with Mexico. U.S. Customs and Border Protection said the average cost along the entire border is $2 million to $3 million a mile.

The stretch near San Diego will cost about $57 million under a contract awarded to Kiewit Corp. of Omaha, Neb., said James Swanson, a Border Patrol special operations supervisor.

ACROSS THE NATION

FBI: Prints prove 'Rockefeller' is German man

BOSTON (AP)—The FBI said Friday that it matched fingerprints from a German man's decades-old immigration papers to a kidnapping suspect who calls himself Clark Rockefeller - the first forensic link to a conclusion California authorities had already made. The FBI said it matched fingerprints from Christian Gerhartsreiter's immigration papers from the early 1980s to those taken from a wine glass Rockefeller touched in late July - around the time he is accused of abducting his daughter - and those taken by Baltimore police after his Aug. 2 arrest. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department this week said it had concluded Rockefeller was Gerhartsreiter after conducting interviews with people who knew him in California in the 1980s.

Ore. service honors 9 killed in fire copter crash

CENTRAL POINT, Ore. (AP)—Under a hot sun filtering through skies hazy with smoke from burning forests, a chrome fire bell tolled Friday to honor nine men killed in the crash of a firefighting helicopter in Northern California. Seven firefighters for Grayback Forestry, a pilot for Carson Helicopters and a U.S. Forest Service inspection pilot died Aug. 5 when their helicopter crashed on takeoff. It was ferrying the crew members from the fire lines in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. More than 3,000 family members, friends and firefighters from around the region turned out at the Jackson County fairgrounds in Central Point to pay tribute to the men, most of whom had strong ties to Oregon.

Nazi camp liberator James Hoyt dies at 83

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—James Hoyt, one of four U.S. soldiers who discovered the Buchenwald concentration camp as World War II neared its end, has died. Hoyt's wife, Doris, said he died Monday in his sleep at home in rural Oxford. He was 83. The cause of death was not immediately determined. Hoyt served in the Army's 6th Armored Division during World War II, earning a Bronze Star. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge, the bloodiest battle fought by American troops in World War II. Buchenwald, one of the largest concentration camps established by Nazi Germany, was liberated in April 1945. It is estimated that 56,000 prisoners lost their lives at Buchenwald between 1937 and 1945.

Texas school district letting teachers carry guns

HARROLD, Texas (AP)—A tiny Texas district will allow teachers and staff members to carry concealed firearms to deter and protect against school shootings when classes begin this month, provided the gun-toting employees follow certain requirements. The small community of Harrold in north Texas is a 30-minute drive from the Wilbarger County Sheriff's Office, leaving students and teachers without protection, said David Thweatt, superintendent of the Harrold Independent School District. The lone campus of the 110-student district sits near a heavily traveled highway, which could make it a target, he argued.

Asia

Musharraf impeachment looms

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—With impeachment proceedings looming, the pressure on President Pervez Musharraf to quit built Friday as both his rivals and allies confirmed back-channel talks were under way that could ease him out.

Musharraf's spokesman said reports the former army chief's resignation was imminent were "baseless" but it was clear he has little support. The last of Pakistan's four provincial assemblies passed a resolution against him and a key ally acknowledged the president lacks the support to survive a vote in parliament.

The political uncertainty adds to an already volatile situation in Pakistan. Officials said Friday that 10 days of fighting in a tribal region near the Afghan border have killed hundreds and displaced more than 200,000. It was one of the bloodiest episodes since Pakistan deployed troops along the border in support of the war on terror nearly seven years ago.

Coalition officials said they could present an impeachment motion to parliament as early as next week and the process could be over by month's end. But officials in the president's office say impeachment could drag on for months because the procedure is not laid out in the constitution.

Musharraf would be the first president to be impeached in Pakistan's turbulent 61-year history. The party of ex-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who Musharraf ousted in a 1999 coup, has even suggested he be tried for treason, which carries a maximum penalty of death. Sharif's party is a partner in the ruling coalition.

'460 militants, 22 troops die in Pakistan'

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan's top civilian security official vowed Friday to "wipe out" Islamic militants in a volatile tribal region where the government says more than 460 insurgents and 22 troops have died in 10 days of fighting.

Interior Ministry chief Rehman Malik said Pakistani intelligence have reports that about 3,000 armed militants are present in the northwestern region of Bajur, which borders Afghanistan. He said they included Pakistanis, Afghan Taliban and Central Asians.

"We will wipe them out," Malik told a news conference in Peshawar. "We will not surrender before them."

Pakistani army helicopter gunships and jets have been pounding militant positions in Bajur since the fighting broke out Aug. 6 when scores of insurgents attacked a military outpost. The region is regarded as a stronghold for Taliban and al-Qaida.

The insurgent attack followed a Taliban threat to retaliate against the government for launching military operations in other frontier regions where it has earlier sought to use dialogue to reach peace with militants—a controversial policy that appears in danger of collapse.

Canadian pedophile gets three years in Thai prison

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—A Canadian schoolteacher who pleaded guilty to sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy was sentenced Friday to three years and three months in jail in Thailand.

Christopher Paul Neil, who taught in several Asian countries, was arrested last year following an international manhunt after hundreds of photos of him allegedly engaging in sex acts with young boys were discovered on the Internet.

The Thai court also imposed a $1,780 fine on the 32-year-old man who had pleaded guilty May 12. His initial sentence of six years, six months was reduced by the court because he did not contest the charges.

Neil still faces similar charges, to which he has pleaded not guilty, involving the younger brother of the 13-year-old boy. In that case, he faces up to 20 years in jail for charges that include sexually abusing a minor, videotaping the alleged abuse, taking a child without parental consent, and holding him against his will.

The child who was 9 years old at the time claims Neil paid him $15 to $30 to perform oral sex in 2003. That trial resumes on Oct. 7.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Attacks on NATO patrol in Afghanistan kills 2

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S.-led forces have killed more than 36 insurgents in a series of clashes and airstrikes in southern Afghanistan, the coalition said Friday. A militant attack on NATO patrol killed two alliance's troops. Groups of militants began launching attacks Wednesday on a coalition reconnaissance patrol in the south, using rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and small arms fire, the coalition said. Coalition troops "returned fire with small arms and close air support," destroying several vehicles and killing more than three dozen insurgents.

Ex-rebels' chief chosen as Nepal's new PM

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepal's national assembly chose the leader of the Himalayan nation's former rebels as the new prime minister Friday, two years after he gave up a bloody insurgency and joined the peace process. Prachanda, chairman of Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), had been widely expected to win because he had the backing of the Communist Party of Nepal (United Marxist-Leninist) , the Madeshi People's Rights Forum and several smaller parties. His own party won the most seats in April elections but fell short of a majority. Prachanda - whose name is a nom de guerre from his rebel days meaning "the fierce one"—was chosen by a 464-113 vote of the assembly.

China bus plunges into ravine killing 15

BEIJING (AP)—A bus veered off the road and plunged into a ravine in central China, killing 15 people, the official Xinhua News Agency said Friday. All of the other 20 people aboard were injured when the bus drove off a mountain road in central Henan province. Twelve sustained serious injuries, according to Xinhua, including an 8-year old boy; five people were classified as in critical condition. The cause of the accident in Mianchi county is still being investigated, but Xinhua said difficult mountain roads caused the bus to lose control. The bus was properly licensed, Xinhua said, and was carrying passengers back home from a trip to the scenic area of Shaoshan in Henan.

SKorean police arrest 157 at anti-US beef rally

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean police arrested nearly 160 people at an overnight rally in downtown Seoul opposing the resumption of U.S. beef imports, an official said Saturday. About 5,500 people rallied in the capital on Friday, a national holiday in South Korea, and the protest continued until early Saturday, when police fired water cannons to disperse the crowd. Police arrested 157 people on charges of staging unauthorized demonstrations, illegally occupying streets and defying orders to disperse, the official said.

World

Georgia leader signs truce

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—Georgia's president grudgingly signed a truce with Russia Friday, even as he denounced the Russians as invading barbarians and accused the West of all but encouraging them to overrun his country. A stone-faced Condoleezza Rice, standing alongside, said Russian troops must withdraw immediately from their smaller neighbor.

President Bush talked tough, too, accusing the Russians of "bullying and intimidation," but neither he nor Rice said what the U.S. might do if Russia ignored them.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's press office had no information Friday night on whether he had signed the cease-fire agreement. Russia's foreign minister assured Rice later that his country would implement the deal "faithfully," a U.S. official said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because Rice's conversation was private, said Russia was likely to sign the deal Saturday.

As the secretary of state spoke in Tbilisi, Russian forces remained camped out just 25 miles away.

Associated Press reporters had seen a convoy of some 50 Russian army trucks and armored personnel carriers roar without warning southeast from the city of Gori on Wednesday, some shouting they were heading to Tbilisi, the Georgian capital. But they veered into a field outside the town of Igoeti and set up camp conspicuously within sight of the road. The Russians were still visible there Friday.

Even as Rice stood with Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili in a show of solidarity, he asked, "Who invited the trouble here? Who invited this arrogance here? Who invited these innocent deaths here?"

Shaky and near tears following a difficult, nearly five-hour meeting with her, Saakashvili answered his own question: "Not only those people who perpetrate them are responsible, but also those people who failed to stop it."

AP

People hold national flags at a rally in support of Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili in Tbilisi, Georgia, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008.

US: Quds, Hezbollah training assassination squads in Iran

WASHINGTON (AP)—Iraqi Shiite assassination teams are being trained in at least four locations in Iran by Tehran's elite Quds force and Lebanese Hezbollah and are planning to return to Iraq in the next few months to kill specific Iraqi officials as well as U.S. and Iraqi troops, according to intelligence gleaned from captured militia fighters and other sources in Iraq.

A senior U.S. military intelligence officer in Baghdad described the information Thursday in an interview with The Associated Press. He spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence.

The officer on Wednesday provided Iraq's national security adviser with several lists of the assassination teams' expected targets. He said the targets include many judges but would not otherwise identify them. Iraq's intelligence service is preparing operations to determine where and when the special group fighters will enter the country and is to provide an assessment to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

The U.S. official acknowledged disclosing the information in an attempt to pressure Iran to suspend the training and prevent the militia fighters from returning to Iraq. The U.S. military also wants the Iraqi government to take steps to protect the targets. "Wanted" posters picturing men believed to be heading the special groups are being posted around Baghdad, the military officer said.

Bomb strikes Shiite pilgrims in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—A passenger van packed with explosives blew up Friday at a bus station north of Baghdad where Shiite pilgrims had stopped for the night, killing four people and wounding dozens, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

The blast happened a day after a female suicide bomber struck Shiite pilgrims traveling to Karbala for a major religious festival, killing at least 18 people and wounding 75.

Those attacks raised concern that extremists were seeking to re-ignite the firestorm of sectarian massacres that plunged Iraq to the brink of civil war two years ago before thousands of U.S. reinforcements were rushed to the country.

Hundreds of thousands of Shiites from throughout Iraq have been traveling by foot or by vehicle to Karbala, 50 miles south of Baghdad, for the religious festival.

U.S. and Iraqi officials said the blast occurred Friday evening at a bus terminal in Balad, a mostly Shiite town surrounded by Sunni villages about 50 miles north of the capital near one of the major U.S. military bases.

London's fabled Walthamstow greyhound track closes

LONDON (AP)—The finish line is looming for the greyhounds of Walthamstow Stadium, a London landmark frequented by everyone from Winston Churchill to Brad Pitt and where David Beckham worked as a teenager.

Saturday sees the end for the 75-year-old temple to the archetypal British sport of greyhound racing. Famed for its heady atmosphere and pink-and-green neon sign, the track is closing after the owners agreed to sell the site to developers.

New ways of gambling, animal rights pressures and rising property prices in an area near the site of the 2012 Olympic Games have all contributed to the demise of the stadium, and the decline of this quintessential working-class sport. London once had more than 30 greyhound tracks; after Saturday, there will be just three.

"I'm sick as a pig. It's a terrible shame," said Barrie Clegg of the Walthamstow Owners' and Welfare Association, who has been coming to the stadium for more than 25 years.

Focus

Georgia crisis frays web linking Moscow and West

By DOUGLAS BIRCH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP

Georgian soldiers set up a position near Gori, Georgia, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2008.

MOSCOW (AP)—The struggle over a tiny, impoverished part of the Caucasus mountains has erupted into a widening confrontation between Russia and the West, the worst since the Soviet Union collapsed.

The rift between Russia and the former Soviet state of Georgia over South Ossetia, a hilly land the size of Rhode Island, threatens a web of institutions spun since the end of the Cold War to tie Moscow to the U.S. and Europe. One by one, the strands holding the web together are fraying.

Even if the cease-fire holds in Georgia, the consequences of the crisis could be grim: Tensions might jeopardize Russian energy shipments to Europe, cut the U.S. off from access to the International Space Station, end intelligence cooperation between Washington and Moscow in the war on terrorism.

Western leaders are mulling expelling Moscow from the Group of Eight club of wealthy nations and denying it membership in the World Trade Organization.

Beyond denying Russia the privilege of participating in an alphabet soup of international groups, the escalating rhetoric threatens to resurrect the ugliest aspect of the Cold War: the doomsday brinksmanship between Russia and the West.

Gen. Anatoly Nogovitsyn, a top Russian officer, said Friday that Poland's agreement to accept a battery of U.S. missile interceptors has put Poland at risk of attack, perhaps with nuclear weapons, the Interfax news agency reported.

The Russian foreign minister, meanwhile, warned that the Kremlin might halt cooperation on efforts to rein in Iran's nuclear program.

The Georgia conflict also could jeopardize several arms control agreements, including the Nunn-Lugar Comprehensive Threat Reduction act, which has provided hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Russia for destroying, dismantling and securing its nuclear weapons.

Some U.S. lawmakers see risks to U.S.-Russia cooperation on the International Space Station, which could spell disaster for the program. After the U.S. space shuttle fleet is retired in 2010, Russia's Soyuz rockets will become the only way to get to the station for several years.

Others members of Congress are proposing a resolution urging that Russia be stripped of its role as host of the 2014 Winter Olympics.

This trouble has been brewing for years.

During much of the 1990s, a poor, divided and chaotically led Russia depended on loans and handouts from the West. As it regained strength, particularly on the back of rising oil prices, Moscow felt its role as an international player was being insulted or ignored.

The West was slow to condemn the erosion of Russia's embryonic democratic institutions, as President Vladimir Putin, now the prime minister, methodically restored the Kremlin's historic role in Russia as the center of power.

The Sept. 11 attack on New York and Washington united the West and Russia in what both regarded as a struggle against global terrorism. But the partnership soon soured for several reasons - including overtures to join Western blocs by Georgia and another former Soviet state, Ukraine.

Moscow came to regard Georgia's "Rose Revolution" and Ukraine's "Orange Revolution," which replaced Kremlin-leaning governments with pro-Western leaders, as part of an effort engineered by the United States and its allies to install friendly governments on Russia's borders.

A number of disputes have followed, notably over the anti-missile system that the U.S. wants to install in former Soviet satellites in Eastern Europe.

But the harshest blows, from Russia's perspective, may have come this year.

Many Western nations recognized Kosovo when it declared independence in February from Russia's ally, Serbia. Then in April, NATO promised eventual membership to Georgia and Ukraine, drawing a vow from Russia to do everything it could to stop the military alliance from expanding to its southern borders.

But until Russia invaded Georgia - after the Georgians launched an offensive against the Russian-allied separatist government in South Ossetia - what some have called the "new Cold War" had largely been just harsh rhetoric and symbolic gestures.

There was hope among some Western policy analysts that Russia's assertive new policies were all talk, perhaps a gambit by Putin to rally Russians behind the election of his hand-picked successor, Dmitry Medvedev. But having talked tough for so long, the Kremlin could not afford to act meekly when South Ossetia was attacked.

Still, the world is not the same as during the Soviet era. Russian companies and tycoons now have ties around the globe - a steel mill in Baltimore, nickel mines in Canada and Botswana, mansions in London. Russia's trade and investment abroad could act as a brake on its actions.

Padma Desai, director of the Center for Transition Economies at Columbia University, feels the sides will find a way to live together. "We will always have to bargain with them because they will always be a major geopolitical power," she said.

An uneasy calm in a key Georgia city

By MANSUR MIROVALEV
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP

A displaced Georgian woman is helped up on the outskirts of Gori, northwest of the capital Tbilisi, Georgia, Friday, Aug. 15, 2008.

GORI, Georgia (AP)—Under a statue of Josef Stalin, the best-known product of this city, a Russian and a Georgian were discussing the war. The Georgian was wearing a T-shirt and track pants. The Russian was in uniform, holding an AK-47.

The Georgian, Archil Tadianidze, lives in Gori and was talking about militia fighters from the breakaway province of South Ossetia who had joined with Russian volunteers to rampage in and around Gori.

"They killed civilians in the villages," he said.

"Now we've gotten tough with them, but where were your police?" answered the Russian, Andrei Pilipchuk, an Interior Ministry spokesman who had accompanied a handful of journalists here.

"They left," Tadianidze said.

As diplomats try to get a cease-fire agreement between Georgia and Russia signed and put into place, an uneasy kind of calm has settled on Gori, occupied by the Russians and situated just south of South Ossetia.

Russian armored vehicles rattle down near-empty streets, and the few remaining residents line up for bread and talk with the soldiers, who have restored a semblance of order. Many of the people who are left are rattled or frightened.

Most buildings appear intact, though a few on the outskirts were burned. Electricity is scarce, and there are very few people left, most of them men or elderly. Younger people fled into the mountains or to Tbilisi.

A woman in her 40s named Manana Labadze, wearing a shabby black dress and worn-out shoes no better than slippers, was outside Gori near a Russian-occupied artillery base. She was carrying a bag with a coat and nectarines.

She was so scared and shell-shocked that when she saw Russian soldiers, all she could do was start handing out the nectarines, and read from a small book of poetry she was carrying in the bag.

"My home is over there," she told a reporter, "but I'm hiding in a basement at my relatives'. I'm scared."

On Friday, a reluctant Georgian President Mikhail Saakashvili said he had signed a cease-fire agreement, and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said she had been assured the Russian president would sign an identical document.

The cease-fire would require Russia to withdraw its combat forces from Georgia but allows Russian peacekeepers to remain in the breakaway region of South Ossetia and conduct limited patrols outside the region.

In Gori, the Russian presence is strategically critical: Gori sits along only Georgia's only significant east-west highway, which means occupying the city allowed the Russians effectively to split the nation in two.

See AN UNEASY on Page 20

Life & Style

Money may be tight, but don't let them know

By TERESA WILTZ
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Frugal fashion, part deux:

Just when you think the financial news can't get any worse ... it does. Tumbling stocks, failing banks, trillion-dollar deficit, your dwindling 401(k). It's enough—with apologies to Marvin Gaye—to make you wanna holler.

Still, you can't exactly go about your business clad in a Depression-era sandwich board, can you? You've got to get dressed. Our advice: Keep it simple, keep it (relatively) cheap. Fortunately, some of the more budget-savvy retailers are looking really good these days. We're particularly enamored of the new fall collections for J. Crew and the Gap, which have injected their lines with a hip preppy aesthetic. You can't go wrong with American Apparel or Target or Club Monaco. Pick some clean-lined basics—an elegant trench, some flat-front trousers, a good V-neck. Pay cash. Pat yourself on the back.

Then go out and party like it's 2009. (Without popping the $100 bottles of champagne.) Because, sooner or later, a change is going to come.

Product Info:

Cotton cable cricket sweater ($85) at J. Crew.

Black leather jacket ($348), heather brown shawl cardigan ($68), heather gray thermal V-neck sweater ($39), brown low-rise straight-leg jeans ($78) and multi-plaid scarf ($29), at Gap stores and Gap.com.

Keanan Duffty for Target button-down shirt with skinny tie ($30) and vest ($28); Merona wool flat-front suit trousers ($50); all available at Target and Target.com.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Frugal fashion, part deux. From left, Keanan Duffty for Target button-down shirt with skinny tie ($30) and vest ($28) and Merona wool flat-front suit trousers ($50); and Gap's leather jacket ($348), shawl cardigan ($68), thermal V-neck sweater ($39), brown low-rise straight-leg jeans ($78) and multi-plaid scarf.

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Keep it simple, keep it (relatively) cheap. Fortunately, some of the more budget-savvy retailers, particularly J. Crew and the Gap, are looking really good these days. Here, a cotton cable cricket sweater ($85) from J. Crew.

Meet NiceCritic: Bearer of unpleasant truth

By LAURA YAO
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

A couple of months ago, my friend was walking down the street when a raggedly dressed man coming toward her stopped, circled around and tapped her on the shoulder.

"Yes?" she inquired.

"You got a big butt and an ugly face!" he said. Message delivered, he turned and wandered off.

Unlike Raggedy Man, many of us are reluctant to offer criticism face to face. So for those of us who don't have the "courage" to personally warn neighbors and co-workers of their flaws, there's NiceCritic.com.

NiceCritic has a cache of pre-written messages that can be sent to your target with the click of a mouse. And, good news for those who are judgmental but timid—it's anonymous. Messages are sorted into categories such as "Personal Hygiene" and "Neighborly Suggestion." There's also an "Anonymous Praise" category. (The site only addresses problems with quick fixes, though—like stained pants or bad breath—so issues of butt size and attractiveness will still have to be dealt with in person.)

The messages are courteous—in the language a British butler would use, the site's founder Erik Riesenberg says—to dull the embarrassment that the recipient no doubt feels.

Such as: "Please do not remove your shoes. Your feet tend to give off an aroma."

And: "Please refrain from slapping people's buttocks."

Riesenberg, a 38-year-old from Weehawken, N.J., was inspired when a friend told him, "You could really use a trim of the nose hair." The encounter left the woman more embarrassed than he was. "I had this idea that there's got to be a better way to facilitate that kind of communication," Riesenberg says.

But on the Internet, any dialogue can quickly sour. Despite Riesenberg's good intentions, what he's created is, in essence, a stockpile of politely worded insults. As Peter Post—grandson of the great Emily—puts it, "How would you feel if you got one of these in your inbox?"

One academic study has shown that people correctly interpret the intended tone of an e-mail only about 50 percent of the time. Justin Kruger, a professor of marketing at New York University who co-authored the study in 2006, says NiceCritic is a bit like teasing. "Good intentions are often much less obvious to the other person than the teaser thinks," Kruger says. "Even well-meaning individuals can be expected to have their well-meaning attempts go awry."

Teasing can also be passive-aggressive behavior. The polite tone of NiceCritic, Kruger says, "makes us feel better but doesn't exonerate negative content as much as the people on the other end think it ought to."

Riesenberg thinks that not allowing readers to compose their own messages will prevent flaming. "There have been other sites like this but that let you write in messages," Riesenberg says. "It usually turns into something negative; people use vulgarity or profanity."

Still, there's one thing that can be said for taking the easy way out, and that thing is: People love it. Launched in early July, NiceCritic has drawn more than 100,000 visitors. Riesenberg estimates that about 80 percent of them actually send messages. He's not making any profit from advertisements on the site yet, but says he's been approached by a few literary agents to write a book on constructive criticism and the lure of anonymity.

AN UNEASY

From Page 19

As in many parts of Georgia, aid has been slow to come. On Thursday, staffers from the United Nations refugee agency and its World Food Program hoped to enter Gori to assess whether it was safe to deliver humanitarian aid.

The situation turned ugly. South Ossetian militiamen appeared, pointing weapons, and began shoving civilians and shouting at people to leave the area.

Georgian police had come to enter Gori but turned back when confrontation developed between the Russian military and the Georgian army.

On Friday, Russian military vehicles were blocking the eastern road into the city, although they allowed in one Georgia bus filled with loaves of bread.

Garadzim Tamgiashvili, 46, an unemployed electrician with graying red hair, said there was a lot of looting by South Ossetians and Russians from the North Caucasus before the Russian military arrived. He said they killed civilians.

He said the Russian soldiers told him they planned to "give it to the Americans."

"We know this is a war between the West and Russia," he said.

Residents reported atrocities in the villages between Gori and Tskhinvali, the South Ossetian provincial capital. Outside Gori, an Associated Press reporter saw a burning wheat field. In the village of Tirdznise, the body of a Georgian soldier lay swollen in the heat.

But for the moment, Gori itself seemed to be a showcase. The Russian troops had stopped the looting, restored order.

One of the few younger women left was Iya Kinvilashvili, 30, the owner of a now-empty shop. Standing next to a church that has organized handouts of bread and flour, she said the Russians were behaving well.

"When is peace coming?" she asked. "We only want peace. We never wanted this war."

Purple prose? His is truly bruising

By MONICA HESSE
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—The results for the 26th annual Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, rewarding the most wretched, the most inept, the most awful abuses of English writing, were announced last week. And to contest champion Garrison Spik, his winning entry wasn't even his worst.

"It's like the Nobel Prize for Literature," explains Spik, whose day job is communications director for Mervis Diamond Importers in Washington. "But at the other end of the spectrum. And the prize money is $999,750 less."

Each year applicants submit putrefying one-sentence openings to bogus novels; this year Spik's was chosen from some 8,000 entries.

It reads:

"Theirs was a New York love, a checkered taxi ride burning rubber, and like the city their passion was open 24/7, steam rising from their bodies like slick streets exhaling warm, moist, white breath through manhole covers stamped `Forged by DeLaney Bros., Piscataway, N.J.'"

"Two others were my personal favorites," says Spik (pronounced "speak"), 41, who submitted eight entries to the contest. "But I was definitely aware of how bad the New Jersey one was."

"It starts out in a familiar vein, one more attempt to define the nature of someone's exquisite love," says Scott Rice gravely. Rice is the literature professor at San Jose State University who founded the contest back in 1982. "But mentioning a cab is somewhat of a step down, and finally at the end it degenerates all the way to a manhole cover with the little detail about Piscataway."

He pauses. "I Googled that. It's real."

Ah, the effort that goes into analyzing offensively bad dumpster trash. The furrowed-brow, ivory-tower effort is what must have made the contest absurd 26 years ago, when it received just three entries. And it's what makes it relevant today, when the "so bad it's good" genre has become a sizable portion of our entertainment. Enjoying something because it's crass is as justifiable as enjoying something because it's good, even more so because excellence can be debated ("Sex and the City") while ungodliness is universally acknowledged ("Flavor of Love.")

Trying to do something well only sets the stage for YouTube disappointment, in which comments posted below your magnum opus read, "Is this a joke?" So much better to shoot for the worst.

Spik, who says his magnificent badness grew out of such eclectic inspirations as Devo, Nathaniel Hawthorne and "Curse of Bigfoot" ("just a horrible, horrible movie"), had never before entered the Bulwer-Lytton, though he had followed it for nearly a decade. (The contest is named after 19th-century author Edward Bulwer-Lytton, writer of the much-parodied opening "It was a dark and stormy night.") He spent those 10 years gathering material in a Word document until he had "a big pile of literary dung to choose from."

THE WASHINGTON POST

Garrison Spik, of Washington, won this year's Bulwer-Lytton prize for wretched writing. Each year applicants submit putrefying one-sentence openings to bogus novels; this year Spik's was chosen from some 8,000 entries.

He has two master's degrees, one in journalism and the other in European history. The latter proved particularly useful: "You talk about a breeding ground for bad writing, academia is where it's at." He has nothing to do with writing the dramatic Mervis radio ads: Ronnie Mervis, the voice of Mervis Diamonds, sometimes asks him to take a look at the copy, "but that's all him."

He plans to use the $250 prize money on a digital camera.

Rice argues that Spik should feel as proud of his accomplishment as if it were that Nobel: "You don't write a bad sentence intentionally without knowing what a good sentence is." Behind the hyperbole and stinkorific metaphors, there must be the makings of a very good writer.

Have any other writers parlayed their Bulwer-Lytton success into more lucrative endeavors?

"One guy said he was going to finish the book and send me a copy once it was published," Rice says. "I never received it."

THREE WISE GUYS

Hate mail, 'King Kong,' electrocuted fish

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

To the boss of Three Wise Guys:

Whoever thought up, began and continues this column ought to be fired. It's stupid, not funny and is a total waste of paper and ink. Joe, Justin and Dan, go get a real job. Flip hamburgers if you have to, but please go away.—Al

Deb the boss: I'm on maternity leave, Al. I was enjoying life. Until you sent these guys a negative comment. Obviously you are not aware of their emotional fragility. I had this baby to get AWAY from them for three months. Now they're calling me three times a day asking if they're good enough, smart enough, if people like them. And I have to lie continually to make them feel better. Also, I think you're old enough now to know that "stupid" is a bad word, and I don't want to hear you use it again. Go to your room and play with your toys. I don't want to have to give you a timeout.

THE WASHINGTON POST

The Washington Post offers Three Wise Guys, advice on life and other stuff from the male perspective, perpetrated by Post staffers, from left, Justin Rude, Joe Heim and Dan Zak. It may not be professional advice, but their responses to reader questions serve up a deft handling of any conceivable topic.

■ ■ ■ ■

Dear Wise Guys:

So I was down at our beach place in Maryland watching an intense electrical storm. There was an absolutely huge amount of lightning over the river. The next day, sailing the Potomac, I noticed numerous dead fish, and this question struck me: Do fish get electrocuted and killed by lightning?—Andy

Dan: Yes, they do. Fish get zapped if they're in small, shallow bodies of water or if they're extremely close to the lightning strike at the surface. When Gary Martel ran a trout hatchery a while back, lightning killed several thousand trout with one bolt. They were in a small, knee-deep body of water next to metal aerators, surrounded by a metal framework. It was a perfect environment for a fish fry, says Martel, chief of fisheries at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. But if lightning hits the open sea, the electricity dissipates over the surface, and deaths are unlikely.

Joe: Can an electric eel be electrocuted by lightning?

Dan: You just blew my mind.

Joe: Can it?

Dan: Martel doesn't know but guesses yes. I don't know, either, but I'm going to guess no, simply because I want to believe that the eels have been storing electricity from lightning strikes and are planning to help humanity cleanly power its industry when we run out of fossil fuels. That news conference will happen any day now.

Dear Wise Guys:

Recently, there was a listing in The Post's TV Week for two versions of "King Kong." The 1933 version was rated four stars, and the 2005 version was rated three stars. What are the criteria for awarding the stars that have a 75-year-old black-and-white movie receiving more?—A Pair of Kings

Justin: Listen, Mr. Brody and Mr. Black, I don't care how many times you write, we aren't giving your movie four stars. Nice pseudonym, though. Besides, the people you really have to harass are the folks at Tribune Media Services who provide TV Week with its movie lists and ratings.

And while I agree that there are a few head-scratchers among those ratings, this case is not one of them. The original is a classic that helped define a genre. On the other hand, only three years after its theatrical release, the film the two of you made with Peter Jackson is remembered mostly for its length.

■ ■ ■ ■

The Three Wise Guys are in the market for a motto, as you might have heard. More than 100 suggestions poured in over the past week ("Three Men, One Brain," "Stud Service for Inquiring Minds" and the adorably direct "Less Than Four, More Than Two"). But we want more. What should be our mantra, our credo, our tag line? E-mail your suggestion (as well as any questions you need answered) to wiseguys@washpost.com and put "motto" in the subject line. Whoever submits our favorite gets to join us as a guest Wise Guy or Gal in an upcoming column.

Elvis fans ignore rain for a graveside vigil

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Mary Lou Martell put it off as long as she could. But she finally had to head to Memphis for an anniversary vigil at Elvis Presley's grave.

"It's my first Elvis Week. I'm a little ashamed to say that, but it is," Martell, 60, said as she took part in a candlelight procession to Presley's grave at Graceland, his former Memphis residence. "We watched it on the computer last year and I finally said, `I have to be part of that.'"

The procession, called the "Candlelight Vigil," drew several thousand Elvis fans who lined up in the street in front of Graceland for a single-file procession up a long, winding driveway to his grave in a small garden.

Fans weren't scared away by an intermittent drizzle during the vigil, which began at 9:30 p.m. EDT.

"We're doing fine," Martell said, peeping out from the hood of a plastic parka. "It's just for Elvis we stay out doing this."

The vigil, which runs into the early morning, is the highlight of a weeklong series of fan-club meetings, dances and Elvis-impersonator contests to commemorate the anniversary of his death. He died of heart disease and drug abuse at Graceland on Aug. 16, 1977. He was 42.

Martell of Dunkirk, N.Y., said she visits Graceland often but avoided Elvis Week in the past because of the crowds. She came early for her first graveside vigil, though, setting up a lawn chair at 9 a.m. at Graceland's front gates.

Many Elvis pilgrims return each year, and the graveside vigil draws visitors from around the world. But it's largely ignored by Memphis residents.

Jennifer Hobson, 29, of Memphis and a group of hometown friends formed a "Blue Hawaii" club to try to change that and sent out vigil invitations to their friends.

The group set up a small canvas canopy in the street in front of Graceland and decorated it with inflatable palm trees, blue lights and an Elvis bust sporting a blue lei.

"This is part of our city," Hobson said, "but when we come down here, we rarely see people we know. Y'all need to come out."

Hobson said the group had to leave some decorations at home because of the rain.

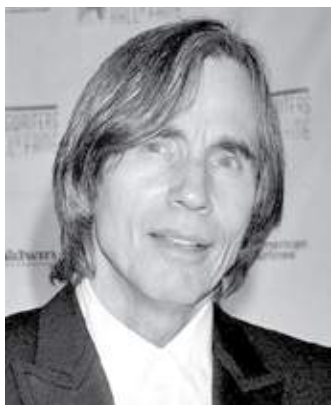
"I have a velvet Elvis, but because of the rain we couldn't bring out all of our good stuff," Hobson said.

Graceland supports a sprawling complex of souvenir shops, and fans waiting for the procession packed the stores pouring over Viva Las Vegas bobble head dolls for $19.99, Burning Love scented candles for $14.99, Jailhouse Rock T-shirts for $24.99 and hundreds of other Elvis-flavored gifts and do-dads.

Nancy Rooks, a former Graceland cook, was set up at a souvenir shop table to sell her book, "Elvis' Maid Remembers," and talk with fans.

Generally, the 71-year-old Rooks said, the fans ask about Elvis' personal habits, when he went to bed, when he got up, what he liked to eat.

"I tell them he ate breakfast at 5 o'clock in the afternoon, but then he'd eat dinner at 1 o'clock at night," she said. "We always had a meat loaf cooked, just in case he wanted it. If he didn't want meat loaf, then we knew to give him roast beef. He liked soul food."



AP

In this June 7, 2007 picture, singer Jackson Browne arrives for the 2007 Songwriters Hall of Fame gala in New York.

Jackson Browne sues McCain, RNC over song in ad

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jackson Browne doesn't want John McCain running on anything fueled by his lyrics. The singer-songwriter sued McCain and the Ohio and national Republican committees in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles on Thursday, accusing them of using his song "Running on Empty" without his permission.

The lawsuit claims the song's use was an infringement of his copyright and will lead people to conclude he endorses McCain. The suit says Browne is a lifelong liberal who is as well-known for his music as for being "an advocate for social and environmental justice."

The advertisement mocks Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's contention that if U.S. drivers got regular tuneups and drove on properly inflated tires, they could save the same amount of oil that would be gained by offshore drilling. According to the suit, "Running on Empty" plays in the background of the ad criticizing the remarks.

Robert Bennett, chairman of the Ohio party, said the ad was pulled when Browne objected. He called the lawsuit a "big to-do about nothing."

McCain spokesman Brian Rogers disavowed the ad, saying it wasn't a product of the Republican presidential candidate's campaign.

Browne's lawsuit contends the Ohio Republican party released the ad on behalf of McCain and the RNC. The RNC did not return a phone call seeking comment.

The suit notes that other musicians, including ABBA and John Cougar Mellencamp, have asked McCain to stop using their work.

Browne's attorney, Lawrence Iser, called the ad's use of the song "reprehensible."

The 59-year-old singer claims his reputation has already been damaged and is seeking more than $75,000 in damages.

Browne released "Running on Empty"—the song and an album by the same name—in 1977. According to the lawsuit, the album has sold more than 7 million copies.

Browne's financial success has aided Democratic candidates over the years. Campaign finance records show he contributed $2,300 to Obama's presidential campaign last year and $2,000 to the Illinois senator's campaign coffers in 2004.

No joke: Bill Murray leaps 13,000 feet to beach

CHICAGO (AP)—Bill Murray landed in Chicago on Friday like he never had before—by jumping from an airplane 13,500 feet up. The 57-year-old actor took several deep breaths before stepping out the open doors of a C-31 Fokker and dropping at about 120 mph to the city's lakefront with members of the Army Golden Knights Parachute Team.

An exuberant Murray, whose jump kicked off the 50th Chicago Air and Water Show, landed safely on a beach. The actor pretended for a moment to stagger as if dizzy, then smiled broadly, waved to the crowd and shook hands with some of the Golden Knights.

Friends asked Murray to participate in the show, which features demonstrations and performances in the air and on Lake Michigan, to support the Illinois United Service Organizations.

But he wasn't so certain of his reason to jump moments before he boarded the plane on a perfect 73 degree day at an Indiana airport 25 miles from Chicago. Members of the Navy Blue Angels also prepared nearby for the show, which runs through Sunday.

"It seemed like a good idea at a time," Murray said. "I've had second thoughts, believe me. I've been really nervous. All the jokes (from friends) involve death."

Before the jump, Murray underwent brief training on the ground. Army Staff Sgt. Joe Jones, who has made more than 3,500 skydives in his career, detailed the mechanics of the parachute and proper tandem jumping form.

"You're going to actually sit on my lap, is that OK?" Jones asked, showing laminated pictures of the dos and don'ts of jumping.

"Are you going to ask me what I want for Christmas?" Murray retorted.

Murray, who kept interrupting Jones with questions, then watched a training video starring actor Chuck Norris and members of the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders, who have also made the jump. Murray said he didn't train, although he watched his weight to stay under a 240-pound requirement.

"Will my ears pop?" he asked. "Is there some frequent flier program?"

Murray's acting career has spanned decades, including roles in "Ghostbusters," "Caddyshack" and "Groundhog Day" and a 2003 Oscar nomination for "Lost in Translation."

AP

In this photo provided by US Army Golden Knights, Actor Bill Murray, bottom makes a tandem jump with US Army Golden Knights Staff Sgt. Joe Jones from 13,500 feet over Lake Michigan for the Chicago Air and Water Show in Chicago, Friday, Aug. 15, 2008.

At more than 2 miles above Chicago, the air temperature in the unpressurized plane dropped to 30 degrees. The roar of the plane's engines and winds coming through the open doors was deafening.

The crowds below waited at the city's North Avenue Beach. "Brady Bunch" actress Florence Henderson prepared to sing the national anthem, and crews set up for actor Gary Sinise's musical performance later in the evening with his group, the Lt. Dan Band.

Up in the plane, Murray, a native of Wilmette, Ill., looked out the window and took short calming breaths from a yellow oxygen tank.

A buzzer went off in the plane around 3 p.m. It was Murray's time to jump.

He and Jones, connected by ropes and harnesses, ambled down the aisle. After a countdown they stepped off, instantly disappearing into the skies below.

Once he landed, Murray said a Golden Knight jumper had tried to ease his nerves by telling him he would want to repeat the jump.

"But right now," Murray said, "I really feel like having a drink."

14th Sarajevo Film Festival opens with 'Snow'

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—The 14th Sarajevo Film Festival kicked off Friday with a screening of Aida Begic's debut feature "Snow," about life in a village in postwar Bosnia.

The movie was honored in May in a Cannes competition overseen by critics.

Over nine days, the Sarajevo festival—born in a sandbag-protected basement during the Bosnian war—will show 174 movies from 40 countries. Last year the international event, which aims to support and promote cinema and authors in Southeast Europe, attracted some 100,000 people.

This year's festival will welcome Kevin Spacey and Charlie Kaufman, as well as regional stars and filmmakers.

The festival started in 1994 in besieged Sarajevo when a few young people tried to offer citizens some sense of normal life. Founder Miro Purivatra, who before the war organized cultural events in the city, thought that residents were hungry for culture as well as for food and organized a showing of Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction."

During the projection powered by a generator, the handful of viewers wondered whether the sound of the shooting came from the loudspeakers or from the battles outside the basement.

International media reported about the unusual event in the middle of a war zone. Several international filmmakers thought the idea should be supported and the next year shipped boxes of movie tapes to Sarajevo with food deliveries.

Partially thanks to the festival, Bosnia's cinema has begun to boom despite the country's poverty. The country has since seen its filmmakers gain prestigious film awards like the foreign-film Oscar for Danis Tanovic's "No Man's Land" in 2002 and the Golden Bear in Berlin for Jasmila Zbanic's "Grbavica" in 2006.

Jerry Wexler, famed record producer, dies at 91

NEW YORK (AP)—Jerry Wexler not only coined the phrase rhythm and blues, the legendary music producer was one of the key architects of the genre. He revolutionized popular music with seminal, superstar-making recordings of acts such as Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles and others.

But the genius of Wexler, who died Friday at his Sarasota, Fla., home at 91, was not limited to just one style of music. Over his decades-long career, he would create varied soundscapes that touched just about every kind of listener, from his work with Bob Dylan and Willie Nelson to his masterful recording of Dusty Springfield to his work with pop and rock acts like George Michael and Dire Straits.

He also helped build one of the most influential labels in pop, Atlantic Records, which was the home of Franklin, Charles, Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones. He was named to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987.

"Jerry was truly one of the great record men of all time," Franklin told The Associated Press Friday. "I salute him today."

Jerry Wexler's son Paul said the record producer died at home, where he was under hospice care, about 3:45 a.m. Friday of heart disease; the death was first confirmed by David Ritz, co-author of Wexler's 1993 memoir, "Rhythm and the Blues."

Both his son and daughter Lisa were present at the time of his death. Paul Wexler told the AP his father's death was "a tremendous loss."

"The number of artists that he was involved with and helped significantly or just made great records with, the list is almost unbelievable," Paul Wexler added. "And many of them are gone now."

AP

In this Oct. 17, 1979, file photo, Jerry Wexler, is shown. Wexler, a legendary record producer, who worked with Aretha Franklin, Ray Charles and other greats, has died.

Wexler earned his reputation as a music industry giant while a partner at Atlantic Records with another legendary music figure, the late Ahmet Ertegun. Atlantic provided an outlet for the groundbreaking work of African-American performers in the 1950s and '60s.

Wexler helped boost the careers of both the "King of Soul," Charles, and the "Queen of Soul," Franklin. Wilson Pickett, Solomon Burke and Percy Sledge were among the other R&B greats who benefited from Wexler's deft recording touch. Among the standards produced by Wexler: Franklin's "Respect," a dazzling, feminist reworking of an Otis Redding song; Sledge's deep ballad "When A Man Loves A Woman" and Pickett's "In the Midnight Hour," with a horn vamp inspired by Wexler's admittedly rhythmless dancing.

Spears, Brown, Jonas Brothers get MTV Awards nods

NEW YORK (AP)—After delivering one of the worst performances in the history of the MTV Video Music Awards, Britney Spears has a chance to be crowned this year as the absolute best.

The rebounding pop queen is nominated for video of the year for "Piece of Me," a clip that had fun with her reputation as a tabloid queen. Other nominees included the Jonas Brothers for "Burnin Up," Chris Brown for "Forever," the Pussycat Dolls for "When I Grow Up" and newcomers The Ting Tings for "Shut Up and Let Me Go."

Other nominees announced Friday - Paramore, Fall Out Boy, Slipknot, Linkin Park and Foo Fighters - were in the category of best rock video.

This is Spears third nomination for this year's VMAs; earlier, fans nominated her for best pop video and best female video, both for "Piece of Me."

Spears' nominations are ironic considering neither the song nor the album from which it came, "Blackout," were significant hits; both were released amid Spears' spectacular public decline over the past year, and her performance at last year's VMAs in Las Vegas represented one of the lowlights of her fall from grace. She was universally ridiculed for her unkempt look and sloppy performance, which kicked off the VMAs and instantly became one of pop's classic moments.

AP

In this photo provided by MTV, Britney Spears does a promo with Russell Brand for the Video Music Awards in this undated publicity photo. Russell Brand hosts the show which airs on MuchMusic, Sept. 7 , 2008.

In recent months, though, Spears has been on an upswing. Since her father James took over her personal and professional affairs after being appointed by a court as her conservator, her erratic behavior has virtually stopped; she settled her custody battle with ex-husband Kevin Federline over their two sons; and made appearances on CBS' "How I Met Your Mother," which were critical and ratings successes.

There's a possibility she get a chance to redeem last year's bad performance at this year's VMAs, to be held Sept. 7 in Los Angeles; MTV has confirmed they are in talks to have Spears appear in some capacity, and she's appearing in two video ads to promote the show.

Russell Brand has been selected to host this year's VMAs, which is to include performances from Kid Rock, Lil Wayne and the Jonas Brothers. Other nominees include Kanye West, Jordin Sparks, Madonna, Rihanna and Katy Perry.

'Office' actor Craig Robinson faces drug charges

AP

In this image released by NBC, Craig Robinson stars as Darryl in the NBC comedy, "The Office."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors have filed felony drug charges against Craig Phillip Robinson, an actor best known for his role as Darryl Philbin on NBC's "The Office."

According to documents released Friday, police in Culver City arrested Robinson on June 29 on suspicion of possessing MDMA, also known as ecstasy, and methamphetamine. He was released the same day after posting bail, jail records show.

Los Angeles County prosecutors charged Robinson with two felony counts of drug possession and one count of being under the influence of illegal drugs.

Robinson's publicist declined comment Friday. The 36-year-old is scheduled to appear in court on August 21.

He is familiar to television audiences for his portrayal of Philbin, a warehouse foreman on "The Office." He also recently appeared in the comedy film "Pineapple Express."

Town responds to Colbert's 'outhouse' slam

CANTON, Texas (AP)—Stephen Colbert's one-man campaign against towns named Canton has its latest target firing back. A city councilman in Canton, Texas, joked that he would "mash his nose" after the comedian referred to the town as an "incorporated outhouse."

Colbert

"What does that sucker know about it? He's never been here anyway," Councilman John Fuller said in a story Friday in the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

In an ongoing gag on his Comedy Central show "The Colbert Report," Colbert has been taking pot shots at various towns named Canton. It began when he referred to a Georgia town as "the crappy Canton."

Colbert then referred to Canton, Kan., with an unprintable epithet, and referred to Canton, S.D., as "North Dakota's dirty ashtray."

Cantons in Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Ohio have so far escaped Colbert's ire.

Leaders of the Texas town of Canton, which has a population of about 5,100, invited Colbert to the town's monthly flea market—which, according to a city Web site, harkens back to Texas' frontier traditions, "when it was common to trade a rifle for a good hunting dog."

"Canton is known worldwide," City Manager Andy McCuistion said of the town, located about 55 miles southeast of Dallas. "You can go anywhere in the world, and people will say, 'Canton? Yeah, I know where that is. It's where that big flea market is.'"

AP

In this Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007 picture, members of the group 30 Seconds to Mars pose as they arrive for a party during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

Virgin Records sues Jared Leto's band for $30M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hardcore fans of 30 Seconds to Mars aren't the only ones who want more of the band's music. Virgin Records has sued the group for $30 million, saying it has failed to deliver.

Virgin Records sued the band and front man Jared Leto in Los Angeles on Friday, claiming they refused to deliver three albums as required by its contract.

The band's last album, "A Beautiful Lie," was released in 2005.

A publicist for Leto, an actor who starred in the film "Requiem for a Dream" and the TV show "My So-Called Life," did not return a message Friday.

According to the lawsuit, the band "repudiated" a 1999 contract in July.

Despite the absence of a new album, the band's hit "From Yesterday" was deemed one of 2007's Top 10 "Hot Modern Rock Songs" by Billboard magazine.

Friends refuse to play their part in drama queen's illness

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm afraid my best friend's daughter, "Kami," may have Munchausen syndrome. People with this condition consciously fake the symptoms of a physical disorder.

Kami is 30, a former nurse, and married with a toddler. She lives to be sick. She is always in the emergency room for something. Kami often claims she has cancer and is dying. In fact, she recently told me proudly that she had "died" twice. Ladies from her church clean her house and bring her meals because they think she's at death's door, yet Kami and her husband are planning a water-skiing and snorkeling vacation.

Kami's husband and parents are extremely protective of her and become defensive if anyone suggests that Kami may not really be physically ill. A sister-in-law who mentioned Munchausen is no longer spoken to.

The final straw for me came when she arrived late to a wedding, making the grand entrance in a wheelchair, and by the end of the night was on her feet swing dancing at the reception.

She's losing friends, because to be friends with Kami means you are completely invested in her illness. Most people are staying away. She exhausts us.

I care for this young woman and her family, but don't know how to help her. Have you any thoughts?

WORRIED FRIEND IN UTAH

DEAR WORRIED FRIEND: Until Kami's family is ready to recognize that she may have a complex emotional disorder rather than a physical illness and stop enabling her, there will be no help for her.

However, has anyone taken into consideration the effect Kami's endless dramatic crises are having on that toddler? When a parent is continually at death's door, attention that should be devoted to nurturing the child is diverted from where it should be.

Please point THAT out to your best friend. While the truth may not endear you to her, it may be the wake-up call she needs to see that her daughter gets help. Either that, or she can intervene to ensure the child receives the emotional support he or she needs while Mama is having another crisis.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I want to thank all the wonderful people who make biking to work possible. I am a mid-40s professional and never thought I could do this, but I am. My goal was to bike at least once a week to work—15 miles each way—and I have been doing it since May and loving it!

Thank you to the drivers who respect bikers, the municipalities who planned for safe cycling, and the companies that provide showers and lockers. It has been so much fun.

I never thought I could do this because of work schedules, kids' activities and weather, but with a little thought it works. It's good, fun exercise. Help the environment, save energy and get fit, America!

GEORGE IN MIAMI VALLEY, OHIO

DEAR GEORGE: I'm pleased that you are enjoying your healthy new lifestyle, and I'm all for physical fitness. However, I hesitate to encourage large numbers of people to embrace your challenge until both cyclists and motorists are better educated about the rules of the road.

Communities need to act now to provide safe bicycle lanes and paths for people trying to conserve gasoline. Awareness needs to be raised among drivers about the rights of bikers. The television and print media could be a significant help in this effort, and I hope they'll take the opportunity to inform their audiences.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

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With what you know of the CUC situation, do you support the adoption of new regulatio

235- NEWS

Cubs rally for ninth straight road win

MIAMI (AP)— Daryle Ward hit a pinch-hit three-run homer in the ninth inning and the Chicago Cubs rallied to beat the Florida Marlins 6-5 on Friday night for their ninth straight road victory.

Ward drove an 0-1 pitch from Florida closer Kevin Gregg over the wall in right field for his third home run of the season and 11th career pinch-hit homer.

Gregg (6-5) walked Mark De Rosa to lead off the ninth and allowed Reed Johnson's one-out single before Ward's game-winning shot.

Reliever Chad Gaudin (4-1) pitched two scoreless innings for the win and Kerry Wood pitched a scoreless ninth for his 25th save in 30 opportunities.

The Cubs are unbeaten on the road since a 9-2 loss at Arizona July 22 and have won four straight on their current six-game road trip. They pushed their lead in the NL East to five

Phillies 1, Padres 0

In San Diego, Jamie Moyer outpitched fellow 40-something Greg Maddux for seven innings, Pat Burrell homered and Philadelphia snapped a four-game skid.

Moyer (11-7) gave up three hits, struck out two and walked two. The left-hander allowed just one runner to reach third base. Maddux (6-9) allowed a run on five hits and struck out four.

Burrell homered in the seventh inning, his 28th of the season, to break up the scoreless game. He is hitting .340 (15-for-44) in his career against Maddux with three homers and nine RBIs.

Ryan Madson gave up a hit and J.C. Romero got two outs in the eighth, and Brad Lidge finished the four hitter by striking out two in a perfect ninth for his 29th save in 29 chances.

Cardinals 5, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Rick Ankiel's two-run homer off Bronson Arroyo lifted St. Louis to its third straight win.

The Cardinals have stayed in wild-card contention by winning five of their last seven.

Brad Thompson (5-2) took the injuried Chris Carpenter's spot and kept the Cardinals' run going. The right-hander went five innings and gave up three runs, including an unearned run set up by catcher Jason LaRue's bad throw and missed tag.

Rookie Chris Perez relieved with one out in the ninth and gave up a single before striking out the last two batters, completing his fourth save in five chances. Perez has helped stabilize a bullpen that leads the NL with 27 blown saves.

Arroyo (10-10) couldn't put the brakes on Cincinnati's fade. The Reds have lost 16 of 20, leaving them stranded in last place in the NL Central.

Rockies 4, Nationals 3

In Washington, Troy Tulowitzki and Brad Hawpe homered for Colorado as the Rockies won for just the third time in nine games.

Hawpe's two-run shot to center field capped a three-run rally against Nationals starter Tim Redding (8-8) with two down in the fifth. Seth Smith singled and scored when Matt Holliday sailed a double over the head of center fielder Lastings Milledge, tying the game at 2, and Hawpe followed with his 20th homer.

The Nationals have lost eight in a row. A loss to the Rockies on Saturday would match Washington's longest skid of the season.

Jorge De La Rosa (6-6) went six innings, allowing three runs and six hits. He had been moved to the bullpen, but returned to the rotation Friday night after an injury to ace Aaron Cook.

Manuel Corpas pitched the seventh, Taylor Buchholz worked the eighth and Brian Fuentes struck out the side in the ninth for his 23rd save in 27 opportunities.

AP

Chicago Cubs' Daryle Ward hits a three run home run in the ninth inning in the baseball game against the Florida Marlins in Miami Friday, Aug. 15, 2008.

Diamondbacks 12, Astros 2

In Houston, Brandon Webb struck out six in eight sharp innings and Chris Snyder drove in four runs for Arizona, which snapped Houston's eight-game winning streak.

Webb (18-4) allowed four hits and retired 16 Astros on groundouts to win his seventh straight decision and fifth straight start against Houston.

Snyder and Chris Young, both Houston natives, and former Astro Chris Burke homered for the Diamondbacks, who've won four of five. Snyder and Burke homered for the second straight game and Snyder and Young also had RBI singles.

Ty Wigginton homered and Lance Berkman had an RBI double for the Astros, who also had their seven-game home winning streak halted.

Wandy Rodriguez (7-5) gave up four runs and matched a career high with six walks in 2 1-3 shaky innings. The left-hander had won four of his previous five decisions.

Giants 5, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Randy Winn had his 100th career homer among his four hits and drove in two runs for San Francisco.

Matt Cain allowed only one run in seven innings to continue his recent string of strong starts. Cain (8-9) has a 1.81 ERA in his last seven starts, but he's only 3-2 in that span.

Cain gave up six hits and a walk, and struck out five. Brian Wilson pitched the ninth for his 33rd save.

Atlanta has lost four straight at Turner Field in its five-game skid. The Braves are 5-15 at home in July and August.

Bengie Molina also had four hits and drove in two runs. The Giants had 15 hits, one shy of their season high, and ended a four-game losing streak.

Mets 2, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Mike Pelfrey pitched seven shutout innings and New York won its fourth straight.

Jose Reyes and Argenis Reyes had two hits each for the first-place Mets, who started the night a game ahead of the Philadelphia Phillies.

Jack Wilson homered off reliever Duaner Sanchez and Adam LaRoche had three hits for Pittsburgh, which has lost three of four and dropped a season-low 12 games below .500.

Pelfrey (11-8), who had a 5.83 ERA in five starts over the past month, was stellar in his first career start against Pittsburgh. The 24-year-old right-hander allowed seven hits and didn't walk a batter.

Pittsburgh had a runner thrown out at home plate in the seventh and hit into two double plays against Pelfrey. The Pirates also wasted a scoring chance in the second, when Brandon Moss popped out and Jason Michaels grounded into a double play with two runners on.

Rays 7, Rangers 0

In Arlington, Texas Matt Garza didn't allow a hit until a debatable call with two outs in the sixth inning, then finished with a two-hitter as the AL East-leading Rays beat the Texas Rangersr 7-0 Friday night.

Meanwhile, a Tampa Bay lineup missing injured stars Evan Longoria and Carl Crawford hit four home runs in 4 2-3 innings off Kevin Millwood (6-7), who was reinstated from the 15-day disabled list to start.

Texas got its first hit when Ian Kinsler hit a looping flyball into short center that ricocheted off the glove of charging outfielder Justin Ruggiano. Any questions about that costing Garza a no-hitter were erased when Josh Hamilton led off the seventh with a solid single up the middle.

Garza (10-7) struck out nine and walked two while throwing 78 of 119 pitches for strikes in his third complete game and joining Andy Sonnanstine and James Shields as 10-game winners for Tampa Bay. None of the Rangers' four base runners got past first.

The Rays (74-47) have a 3 1/2 -game division lead over Boston, which was rained out at home against Toronto on Friday night.

Indians 3, Angels 2

In Cleveland, Cliff Lee became the AL's first 17-game winner by pitching his third complete game of the season, leading Cleveland over Los Angeles.

The Angels scored 48 runs in their last six games but could muster just eight hits and two runs against Lee (17-2). The left-hander struck out six, won for the sixth time in seven starts and lowered his ERA for the season to 2.43.

Cleveland scored twice in the sixth to take a 3-2 lead. Shin-soo Choo's one-out double off Jered Weaver got it started.

Jose Arredondo (4-1) walked Kelly Shoppach and yielded a tying RBI single to Ryan Garko. Walks to pinch-hitter David Dellucci and Asdrubal Cabrera forced in Shoppach.

Royals 4, Yankees 3

In New York, Mariano Rivera's first wild pitch of the season allowed the tiebreaking run to score in the ninth inning, and Jason Giambi flied out with the bases loaded to end Kansas City's win over fading New York.

Mark Teahen hit a two-run double and Kansas City got another solid outing from Gil Meche, who hasn't lost in eight starts since July 2 at Baltimore. The last-place Royals improved to 6-29 at Yankee Stadium this decade by beating New York for the fifth time in eight meetings overall this season.

Pinch-runner Justin Christian was inexplicably picked off at first base for the first out of the ninth inning, the latest abysmal play by an injury-depleted Yankees team that is falling fast in the playoff race.

New York, which hasn't missed the postseason since 1993, dropped seven games behind Boston for the AL wild-card spot. Rivera (4-5) took the loss.

Leo Nunez (4-1) got the win for Kansas City and Joakim Soria pitched out of a jam for his 33rd save.

Twins 9, Mariners 3

In Minneapolis, Jason Kubel homered and had three RBIs in a seven-run fourth inning and Minnesota beat up on former teammate Carlos Silva.

Francisco Liriano allowed no earned runs in seven solid innings for Minnesota, which began the night one game behind Chicago in the AL Central. The Twins have won six of eight since losing two straight in Seattle last week.

Facing his former team for the first time, Silva tied a career high by allowing nine earned runs and lost for a league-leading 14th time. After starting the season 3-0, he has won just once in his last 21 starts.

Silva (4-14) won 47 games for the Twins from 2004-07 before signing a 4-year, $48 million contract with Seattle in December.

In winning his third straight start since being recalled from Triple-A Rochester, Liriano (3-3) wasn't overpowering—he had just five strikeouts—but effectively kept the ball down in the zone. The Mariners grounded out 13 times.

Orioles 11, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Melvin Mora finished a double shy of the cycle, driving in four runs to lift Baltimore past Detroit.

Mora finished 3-for-4 and has 15 RBIs in his last seven games, his offensive production corresponding to a sudden charge by the Orioles offense. Baltimore has scored 66 runs in its last eight games.

Reliever Lance Cormier (2-3) picked up the win in relief, allowing only a hit in 2 2-3 innings against a potent but suddenly scuffling Detroit lineup.

Nate Robertson (7-9) allowed five runs—four earned—and eight hits in 5 1-3 innings for the Tigers, who gave him very little help on defense. Detroit committed three errors in losing for the 11th time in its last 15 games.

A record round for Pettersson at Wyndham

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—Carl Pettersson supported moving the Wyndham Championship to Sedgefield Country Club. After a performance like this, it's easy to see why.

The local favorite produced the latest record-breaking round at Sedgefield, shooting a tournament-record 61 on Friday to match the PGA Tour's 36-hole mark at 15-under 125.

He had a three-stroke lead over Garrett Willis (64). Scott McCarron (64) was four strokes back, and Kevin Streelman (64) was another shot behind. Jerry Kelly (65), Bob Sowards (66) and Tim Clark (67) were 9 under.

But clearly, the day belonged to Pettersson, a Swede who went to high school in Greensboro, played collegiately at North Carolina State and serves on the tournament's board of directors.

"This is like his retirement fund," defending champion Brandt Snedeker said. "He plays good here every year."

A year ago, while speaking at the Wyndham's previous home, Pettersson voiced his support for the then-rumored switch to Sedgefield. He played the Donald Ross course for the first time in November, shortly before the move was made official.

Then, he began this year's tournament with a 64 and admitted afterward that he was "a bit edgy starting out" because "this is a home game for me."

This time around, those jitters were long gone.

"The courses (on the PGA Tour) have been set up hard, so it's a nice change to be really aggressive, and (Sedgefield) kind of suits my style," Pettersson said. "I try to play really aggressive all the time, and so far it's paid off great."

In matching the lowest single-round score on the PGA Tour this year, he shot a 30 through his opening nine holes. Six of his 11 birdies came on the front nine, and he set the tone with birdies on first three holes.

"As soon as I did that, my mind kind of set in and played nice all day," Pettersson said.

By the time Pettersson reached the par-5 15th, he confessed to catching himself daydreaming about shooting a 59—and then promptly bogeyed the easiest hole on the course, sending his third shot into a greenside bunker.

He quickly recovered, sinking a 40-foot putt on the 16th for the first of two straight birdies. He had a chance to make it three in a row on the course's most difficult hole—the 507-yard, par-4 18th—but rolled his birdie putt a foot to the right of the hole, tapped in for par and tipped his visor to the vocal hometown crowd.

"I was glad Carl ran out of holes," Willis said. "Every time I made a birdie, it seemed like he made one, too."

That remarkable round put him in position to contend for his third career PGA Tour victory and first since the 2006 Memorial.

He eclipsed the Wyndham's previous low of 62—a mark shared by four players, most recently Charles Warren in 2005—and shattered the course record of 63 that was matched a day earlier by first-round leaders Bob Heintz and Martin Laird.

"This course, you can make a lot of birdies, but it's quite easy to have a few bogeys in there, too," Pettersson said. "I kind of knew at the beginning of the week, I thought it was going to be a low-scoring week, just because you have a lot of wedges, 8-irons, 9-irons into par 4s."

Pettersson's two-round score equaled the tour record shared by Tiger Woods, Mark Calcavecchia, Tom Lehman and Corey Pavin, and his 18-hole score matched the 61 recorded six months ago by Roland Thatcher during the third round of the Mayakoba Golf Classic in Cancun.

The first-round leaders, facing the hard, dried-out greens that accompanied their afternoon tee times, quickly fell off the pace. Heintz wound up 10 strokes off the lead after his 72, and Laird was two strokes behind him after his 74 dropped him to the cut line of 137.

Among the players who entered on the FedEx Cup bubble but ultimately wound up missing the cut were No. 140 Tag Ridings (138), No. 141 Todd Hamilton (141), No. 143 Brett Rumford (143) and No. 146 Craig Kanada (144).

Vijay Singh—who at No. 5 in the world was the highest-ranked player in the field—bogeyed three of the final six holes of his 72 to finish at 141 and miss the cut for the second straight week, just the fifth time in his career that has happened. John Daly, who was at 137, made his first cut since February.

Play was delayed late in the day for 1 hour, 11 minutes because of rain.

AP

Carl Pettersson watches his final putt on the 18th hole during day two of the Wyndham Championship golf tournament, on Friday, Aug. 15, 2008, in Greensboro, N.C.

Thompson keys third quarter run as US beats Spain

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. coach Anne Donovan didn't mind that her women's basketball team struggled in the first half against Spain. She felt even better by the way the Americans responded.

The first three contests for the U.S. were over by halftime as the Americans won by an average of 47 points. Friday night at halftime the U.S. led by just five, 39-34.

"For us this was a good game," Donovan said. "It's what we wanted to have. Tonight it was great when Spain made their run and at the end of the first half, we're sitting there with a five-point lead. … We hadn't been tested like that."

The U.S. aced the exam. The US opened the third quarter with a 20-5 run en route to a 93-55 victory. Tina Thompson scored nine of her 17 points during the decisive run and Lisa Leslie added 14 points and 11 rebounds.

"It was good that we got tested and things didn't go our way," U.S. guard Kara Lawson said. "We got into the locker room and there was no sense of panic. At some point we were going to go through a stretch like that and its better we faced it now so that we're prepared for later."

The Americans had 11 turnovers by the half—more than they had in any entire game of the tournament. More focused, the USA scored the first nine points of the third period, including three by Thompson from the foul line. Thompson was fouled hard by Ana Montanana, who was called for a technical foul—the first of the entire Olympics.

"I don't even remember what happened," Thompson said. "Stuff like that happens during a game when both teams are playing physical. You just step up hit your free throws and move on."

Tamika Catchings' putback with 2:53 left in the period gave the U.S. a 59-39 advantage. Spain closed within 16 to start the fourth quarter before the Americans went on a 13-0 run to put the game away.

Candace Parker added 13 points and Diana Taurasi had 12 for the U.S. (4-0). The Americans will close out pool play on Sunday against New Zealand (1-3).

"Realistically we know that we can't compete with America," New Zealand coach Mike McHugh said. "We'll just try to accomplish small goals."

Amaya Valdemoro led Spain (2-2) with 17 points.

The U.S. got a brief scare when Leslie left early in the period with a slight hip injury. She was stretched on the sidelines by team trainer Ed Ryan before returning later in the period.

"My hip kind of jammed on me," Leslie said. "I had to get a little treatment on the side, but once it got warm I was okay."

With the win, the U.S. has 29 straight victories in Olympic contests. The last loss was to the Unified team in the 1992 semifinals.

The game looked to be another blowout at the start with the Americans jumping out to a 19-4 lead in the first quarter as they held Spain scoreless for nearly 7:30 minutes. However, Spain wouldn't go away, closing the period with a 13-3 spurt of its own, hitting four 3-pointers. Montanana's 3-pointer at the buzzer closed the gap to 22-17.

"We got off to that great start, but then they made a run hitting all those 3s to make a game of it and give themselves confidence," U.S. co-captain Katie Smith said.

Spain will finish its pool play on Sunday against Mali.

In other games Friday, Australia topped Latvia 96-73, Russia edged Brazil 74-64, the Czech Republic beat New Zealand 90-59, Belarus defeated South Korea 63-53, and China routed Mali 69-48.

Report: Pack's Favre deal included souvenirs, blog

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—The Green Bay Packers' proposed $20 million marketing deal for Brett Favre included a merchandise line, autographs, personal appearances and even a blog, according to a report in The Sporting News' online newsletter Friday.

And while Favre turned down the deal in favor of returning to play and was traded to the New York Jets last week, the Packers are expected to offer him a similar agreement once he retires for good.

"We do want to have a long-term relationship with Brett," Packers president and CEO Mark Murphy said in a news conference after Favre was traded last week. "He will always be a Packer and he's very important to this organization."

According to the a draft of the agreement obtained by Sporting News Today and its sister publication, The Business Journal Serving Greater Milwaukee, the Packers' proposed 10-year deal for Favre included a line of clothing, merchandise and collectibles. The Packers Pro Shop would have become the exclusive distributor of autographed Favre memorabilia, and Favre would sign 300 items a year for the team's use.

Favre also would have been required to make 10 personal appearances each year—including two private hunting or golfing trips—and a blog would have been created for Favre on the team's Web site.

The Packers began putting together a marketing deal for Favre soon after he announced his retirement in March. They are expected to revisit the idea once Favre really retires.

In a chat with fans on packers.com last week, Murphy said he intends to reach out to Favre "at the appropriate time" to finalize a formal relationship. Packers coach Mike McCarthy said last week that he would consider bringing Favre back to work with the team's quarterbacks in training camp after his playing days are over.

"He's a Green Bay Packer," McCarthy said. "He wants to come back here, he wants to be welcome back here."

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	74	47	.612	_
Boston	71	51	.582	3 1/2
New York	64	58	.525	10 1/2
Toronto	62	60	.508	12 1/2
Baltimore	59	62	.488	15

Central Division

Chicago	68	53	.562	_
Minnesota	68	53	.562	_
Detroit	59	63	.484	9 1/2
Cleveland	55	66	.455	13
Kansas City	55	67	.451	13 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	75	45	.625	_
Texas	61	62	.496	15 1/2
Oakland	56	65	.463	19 1/2
Seattle	46	75	.380	29 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	66	56	.541	_
Philadelphia	65	57	.533	1
Florida	63	60	.512	3 1/2
Atlanta	55	67	.451	11
Washington	44	79	.358	22 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	75	47	.615	_
Milwaukee	70	53	.569	5 1/2
St. Louis	69	56	.552	7 1/2
Houston	62	60	.508	13
Pittsburgh	55	67	.451	20
Cincinnati	54	69	.439	21 1/2

West Division

Arizona	63	59	.516	_
Los Angeles	63	59	.516	_
Colorado	55	69	.444	9
San Francisco	51	70	.421	11 1/2
San Diego	47	75	.385	16

Yesterday's Games

Toronto at Boston, ppd., rain
Baltimore 11, Detroit 2
Kansas City 4, N.Y. Yankees 3
Cleveland 3, L.A. Angels 2
Tampa Bay 7, Texas 0
Minnesota 9, Seattle 3
Oakland 6, Chicago White Sox 4
N.Y. Mets 2, Pittsburgh 1
Chicago Cubs 6, Florida 5
St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 3
San Francisco 5, Atlanta 1
Colorado 4, Washington 3
Arizona 12, Houston 2
Philadelphia 1, San Diego 0
L.A. Dodgers 5, Milwaukee 3

WYNDHAM CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

GREENSBORO, North Carolina (AP)– Scores Friday from the Wyndham Championship, a $5.1 million (€3.4 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at 7,118-yard, par-70 Sedgefield Country Club:

SECOND ROUND

Carl Pettersson	64-61	125
Garrett Willis	64-64	128
Scott McCarron	65-64	129
Kevin Streelman	66-64	130
Tim Clark	64-67	131
Bob Sowards	65-66	131
Jerry Kelly	66-65	131
Robert Garrigus	66-66	132
John Senden	66-66	132
John Riegger	67-65	132
Mark Hensby	66-66	132
Michael Letzig	67-66	133
Steve Marino	65-68	133
Charles Warren	67-66	133
David Lutterus	69-64	133
Bo Van Pelt	67-66	133
Lee Janzen	67-66	133
Mark Brooks	68-66	134
Ben Crane	68-66	134
Kent Jones	66-68	134
Lucas Glover	66-68	134
Tom Pernice, Jr.	68-66	134
Danny Lee	68-66	134
Jeff Gove	68-66	134
Brandt Snedeker	66-68	134
Vaughn Taylor	67-67	134
Jay Williamson	67-67	134
Justin Bolli	68-66	134
Billy Mayfair	67-68	135
Tim Wilkinson	66-69	135
Briny Baird	67-68	135
Bob Tway	70-65	135
Glen Day	66-69	135
Jason Dufner	66-69	135
Billy Andrade	66-69	135
Mathias Gronberg	71-64	135
David Toms	68-67	135
George McNeill	68-67	135
Mark Wilson	68-67	135
Brian Gay	67-68	135
Shane Bertsch	67-68	135
Scott Sterling	64-71	135
Bob Heintz	63-72	135
Kyle Thompson	68-67	135
Ted Purdy	68-68	136
Eric Axley	67-69	136
Davis Love III	66-70	136
Zach Johnson	66-70	136
Ken Duke	65-71	136
Paul Casey	70-66	136
Joe Durant	67-69	136
Jeff Maggert	66-70	136
Ryuji Imada	68-68	136
Mark Calcavecchia	67-69	136
Troy Matteson	69-67	136
J.J. Henry	70-66	136
Brenden Pappas	69-67	136
Jason Gore	67-69	136
Frank Lickliter II	68-68	136
Y.E. Yang	67-69	136
Charley Hoffman	68-69	137
Dean Wilson	66-71	137
Joe Ogilvie	69-68	137
Rich Beem	70-67	137
John Daly	70-67	137
Bob Estes	71-66	137
Tom Byrum	71-66	137
Jon Mills	68-69	137
Marc Turnesa	69-68	137
Nick Flanagan	68-69	137
Todd Demsey	69-68	137
Cody Freeman	70-67	137
Richard S. Johnson	67-70	137
Peter Lonard	66-71	137
Patrick Sheehan	66-71	137
Stephen Poole	66-71	137
Martin Laird	63-74	137
Doug LaBelle II	70-67	137

2008 BEIJING OLYMPICS

MEDAL COUNT

	G	S	B	Total
China	6	9	6	41
United States	15	14	19	48
Germany	8	2	4	14
South Korea	6	9	3	18
Italy	6	5	4	15
Japan	6	4	4	14
Australia	5	7	10	22
Russia	4	8	8	20
Britain	4	2	3	9
France	3	10	7	20
Slovakia	3	1	0	4
Ukraine	3	0	4	7
Czech Republic	2	2	0	4
Georgia	2	0	1	3
Cuba	1	3	4	8
Zimbabwe	1	3	0	4
Netherlands	1	2	4	7
Azerbaijan	1	2	1	4
North Korea	1	1	3	5
Romania	1	1	2	4
Mongolia	1	1		2
Poland	1	1	0	2
Brazil	1	0	4	5
Switzerland	1	0	3	4
Finland	1	0	1	2
Spain	1	0	1	2
Ethiopia	0	0	1	
India	1	0	0	1
Thailand	1	0	0	1
Hungary	0	4	1	5
Kazakhstan	0	3	2	5
Sweden	0	2	1	3
Turkey	0	2	1	3
Belarus	0	1	3	4
Austria	0	1	2	3
Algeria	0	1	1	2
Kyrgyzstan	0	1	1	2
Norway	0	1	1	2
Slovenia	0	1	1	2
Uzbekistan	0	1	1	2
Colombia	0	1	0	1
Ecuador	0	1	0	1
Serbia	0	1	0	1
Vietnam	0	1	0	1
Armenia	0	0	5	5
Denmark	0	0	2	2
Indonesia	0	0	2	2
Taiwan	0	0	2	2
Argentina	0	0	1	1
Bulgaria	0	0		1
Croatia	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Lithuania	0	0	1	1
Mexico	0	0	1	1
Tajikistan	0	0	1	1
Togo	0	0	1	1

By The Associated Press

Erratum

In Friday's 24th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament photo spread on Page 43, Tomasa Ada was inadvertently identified as the late Jacinto "Timayong" Ngirangao Taman's wife, Lyn. Ada is Jacinto Taman's sister. Captain Jesus Muna was also the captain of *The Marianas* and not Joseph Muna.

Sufa Golf Tournament tees off Aug. 23

The Sufa Softball Association will be holding a golf fundraiser this coming Aug. 23 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville.

The organization's vice president Joe Salas said the event, dubbed simply as the Sufa Golf Tournament, is Sufa Softball Association's last and final fundraising before the team departs to the 4th Annual Labor Day Softball Tournament in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Sufa Golf Tournament will have a registration time of between 10:30am and 11:45am with a shotgun start of 12pm. Tournament fee is $100.

After the tournament, players are requested to proceed to the awards banquet presentation at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe.

Salas said the proceeds from the fundraiser will once again help defray the cost of airfare, hotel, and other miscellaneous expenses of the team while they compete in Nevada. ***(Mark Rabago)***

PHELPS

From Page 28

goes to show you that not only is this guy the greatest swimmer of all time and the greatest Olympian of all time, he's maybe the greatest athlete of all time. He's the greatest racer who ever walked the planet."

Call it the Great Haul of China—and it's not done yet.

Phelps will return on Sunday to swim in his final event of these games, taking the butterfly leg of the 400 medley relay. The Americans will be heavily favored to give him his eighth gold, leaving Spitz behind.

Phelps slapped his hands on the water and let out a scream after the astonishing finish. The crowd at the Water Cube gasped—it looked as though Cavic had won—then roared when the "1" popped up beside the American's name.

Cavic's time was 50.59.

The Serbian delegation filed a protest, but conceded that Phelps won after reviewing the tape provided by FINA, swimming's governing body. USA Swimming spokeswoman Jamie Olson said the tape was slowed to one frame every 10-thousandth of a second to make sure Phelps actually touched first.

It was impossible to tell on regular-speed replays.

"We filed the protest but it is already over," said Branislav Jevtic, Serbia's chief of mission for all sports. "They examined the video and I think the case is closed. The video says (Phelps) finished first.

"In my opinion, it's not right, but we must follow the rules. Everybody saw what happened."

FINA referee Ben Ekumbo of Kenya said there was no doubt who won after a review of the super-slow replay.

"It was very clear that the Serbian swimmer touched second after Michael Phelps," he said. "One was stroking and one was gliding."

Cavic wasn't sure he actually lost, but said he would accept FINA's ruling.

"I'm stoked with what happened," Cavic said. "I don't want to fight this. People will be bringing this up for years and saying you won that race. If we got to do this again, I would win it."

Cavic watched the replay himself.

"It's kind of hard to see," he said. "I know I had a long finish and Michael Phelps had a short finish."

A notoriously slow starter - Phelps was seventh out of eight at the turn - he really turned it on with the return lap, his long arms gobbling up huge chunks of water as he closed the gap on Cavic and fellow American Ian Crocker, the world record-holder.

As they approached the finish, with Phelps' head in line with Cavic's shoulder, the Serb took his final big stroke and glided underwater toward the gold. Phelps, his timing a bit off but fully aware of where he was, did another mini-stroke, propelling his upper body out of the water, swooping his arms in a huge circular motion and slamming the wall with his hands on the follow-through.

"I actually thought when I did take that half-stroke, I thought I lost the race there, but I guess that was the difference in the race," Phelps said.

It was reminiscent of the 100 fly finish at Athens four years ago, where Crocker appeared to have the race won but Phelps got him at the wall by 0.04.

"My last two Olympics I've been able to nail my finishes, and it's been by four one-hundredths and one one-hundredths," he said. "I'm happy and kind of at a loss for words."

Phelps set world records in his first six events, some of them by ridiculously large margins. He merely settled for a personal best in the 100 fly, which will at least give Spitz's supporters some reason to gloat: all seven of his wins in Munich were with world records.

But, like Spitz, Phelps is 7-for-7 with a chance for one more.

Or maybe that should be 6.99-for-7.

Andrew Lauterstein of Australia won the bronze medal in 51.12. Crocker was again denied the first individual gold of his career; he didn't even win a medal, finishing fourth by a hundredth of a second in 51.13.

"It was a tight one," Crocker said. "I saw my short differential between getting a medal or not, but then I realized Michael's was pretty close, too. I'm really glad that he came out on top.

"It was everything that an Olympic final should be. It doesn't matter who's in the heats, you just got to get out and race and it's anybody's game. It was one of the more intense races that I've been in, which makes it a great way to end the meet."

While the medley relay figures to be nothing more than a coronation, Phelps isn't ready to talk about No. 8.

"It's not over yet," he said. "I really think the Australian team looks great for the relay. It's going to be a race."

Lauterstein was just thrilled to be part of history.

"It was an amazing final," he said. "Every time you race Phelps, you'll have a great race and a great time. Just hearing his arms slap on the block gets your heart racing, he's amazing. I'm so happy to get the medal."

Overshadowed by Phelps, two more world records fell on the next-to-last day of swimming - the 22nd and 23rd of a lightning-quick week.

Rebecca Adlington of Britain won gold in the 800 freestyle, breaking Janet Evans' 19-year-old world record - the oldest in swimming.

Adlington touched in 8:14.10 to crush the mark of 8:16.22 set by the American in Tokyo on Aug. 20, 1989. Alessia Filippi of Italy took the silver and Lotte Friis of Denmark the bronze.

Adlington completed a sweep of the women's distance events in Beijing, having upset American Katie Hoff to win the 400 freestyle. There were no Americans in the field after Hoff and Kate Ziegler were shockingly eliminated in the preliminaries.

Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe finally won a gold in Beijing, defending her Olympic title in the 200 backstroke with a world record of 2:05.24. She lowered the mark of 2:06.09 set by Margaret Hoelzer at the U.S. trials last month.

Hoelzer not only lost her record but had to settle for silver. Reiko Nakamura of Japan earned the bronze.

No one was happier that Cesar Cielo, who won Brazil's first swimming gold with an upset in the 50 freestyle. He broke down crying on the medal stand and was mobbed by his teammates on deck.

He won in 21.30, lowering his own Olympic mark of 21.34 that he set in the semifinals. Amaury Leveaux of France took the silver in 21.45. Alain Bernard of France, the 100-meter champion, won bronze in 21.49.

World champion Ben Wildman-Tobriner of the United States was fifth and Aussie Eamon Sullivan, the world record-holder and silver medalist in the 100, could only manage sixth.

Also, 41-year-old Dara Torres of the U.S. cruised into the final of the 50 free with the fastest semifinal time, 24.27. Australian teenager Cate Campbell was second at 24.42.

NEW

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tennis, touch, triathlon, canoeing, and weightlifting.

With the lack of facilities, the organizing committee early this month has initiated proceedings to identify and secure training venues around the islands for teams joining next yea's Mini Games.

Training venues are mostly sports fields or rugby fields located in either village sports association or schools.

Organizers said consultations and approval for the usage of the facilities have to be made at this early to avoid scheduling problems once the participating teams arrive.

Next year's Mini Games will run from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2 with 20 island-nations had already committed to send delegates.

The Cook Islands will be hosting athletes and officials from Samoa, American Samoa, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia,Niue, the Norfolk Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Tahiti, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Wallis and Futuna.

The Marshall Islands and Tuvalu have yet to commit to the Mini Games, while the NMI was included on the list of committed PGAs released by organizers in March with entries in sailing and golf.

With only golf, athletics, and sailing showing an intention to go to the Cook Islands, it is unlikely that the NMI will surpass or even duplicate its feat in the 2005 edition of the Games in Palau.

The NMI Team grabbed 23 medals in Palau, getting four gold medals, 12 silver and seven bronze. Swimming gave the NMI the most medals with 19. Triathlon claimed two gold medals and one bronze, while the table tennis men's team had one bronze.

New Caledonia ruled the 2005 Mini Games with its 56-29-25 tally, followed by Fiji (23- 21-16) and Nauru (18-0-0).

All 22 member-islands of the Pacific Games Council participated in the 2005 Mini Games.

The 2009 edition of the Mini Games will be the second time that the Cook Islands is hosting the similar event. The quadrennial Games were held first in Rarotonga in 1985.

Honiara in Solomon Islands hosted the inaugural Mini Games in 1982 with 15 island-nationals joining the event.

After the Cook Islands, Tonga hosted the Mini Games in 1989, Vanuatu in 1993, American Samoa in 1997 and the Norfolk Islands in 2001.

A record round for Pettersson at Wyndham

Carl Pettersson supported moving the Wyndham Championship to Sedgefield Country Club. After a performance like this, it's easy to see why. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Cubs rally for ninth straight road win

Daryle Ward hit a pinch-hit three-run homer in the ninth inning and the Chicago Cubs rallied to beat the Florida Marlins 6-5 on Friday night for their ninth straight road victory. **25**

AP

United States' Michael Phelps reacts as he wins gold in the final of the men's 100-meter butterfly during the swimming competitions in the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Saturday, Aug. 16, 2008.

Phelps swims into history, bags seventh gold medal

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

BEIJING (AP)—With history hanging in the balance, Michael Phelps decided to take one more stroke. His long arms soared above the water, windmilled past his ears and slammed into the wall. In the next lane, Milorad Cavic was gliding to the finish, just inches from the gold, his arms no longer driving but just reaching for the end.

That's all Phelps needed. He didn't have to be the fastest. Just first.

Phelps swam into history with a magnificent finish Saturday, tying Mark Spitz with his seventh gold medal by the narrowest of margins in the 100-meter butterfly.

He got his hands on the wall a hundredth of a second ahead of Cavic—a finish so close the Serbians filed a protest and swimming's governing body had to review the tape down to the 10-thousandth of a second.

"I had no idea," Phelps said. "I was starting to hurt a little bit with probably the last 10 meters. That was my last individual race, so I was just trying to finish as strong as I could."

Phelps' time was 50.58 seconds, the only time in these Olympics that he won an event without breaking the world record.

RELATED STORY

Thompson keys third quarter run as US beats Spain

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Not to worry. The 23-year-old from Baltimore has now pulled even with the greatest of Olympic records, matching Spitz's performance in the 1972 Munich Games.

"One word: epic," Spitz told The Associated Press from Detroit. "It

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New indoor stadium for 2009 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Construction of a new indoor stadium to be used for the 2009 Mini South Pacific Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands has started last week and is expected to be completed in June next year.

According to the Mini Games website, excavation and site clearance were done last week as part of the initial stage of the construction of the stadium located at Tereora, which also housed the National Stadium and the track and field facility.

"The much awaited signs of construction works to begin at Tereora for the Cook Islands indoor sports stadium was a welcome sight for sports enthusiasts and organizers," said John Strickland, managing supervisor of the project.

Strickland is aiming to finish the construction in June or three months before the Mini Games kick off because the indoor stadium will also be used for the World Youth Netball Competition, which is set for July next year.

The construction of a new indoor stadium was proposed late last year, but it was only last month that the government approved the $13-million loan for the project. Of the $13-milion fund, $6 million will go to local contractors.

Next year's Mini Games lined up only 15 events due to lack of facilities. The Cook Islands have only two main sports facilities, namely the Tereora National Staidum and the Raemaru Sports Ground.

The calendar of events for the 2009 Mini Games include athletics, boxing, body building, golf, lawn bowls, netball, rugby 7's, rugby league, sailing, squash, table

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2.

Passion for the game

Seriously, have to hurry to finish and submit this column before the power goes out again so please excuse typos, non sequiturs and grammatical boo-boos.

On my desk is a new book fresh off the printing press, "Baseball in Palau: Passion for the Game" by Dr. Don Shuster, Micronesian Area Research Center at the University of Guam.

When I started my Saipan hardball history project in 2006 I heard Shuster was doing a similar project for Palau and contacted him. My book came out later that year. Shuster finally finished his two years later. It was worth the wait.

The book is substantial, 8" x 11" with heavy stock paper, four color and seven black and white full page photos if I counted right covering Palau baseball from 1925-2007.

"Saipan Baseball: From the Beginning," co-authored by Frank Palacios is unique in all of Micronesia. We got the stats, baby. Palau didn't have Tan'ko. Well, actually they did from 1943-46 when he lived there, but they didn't have anyone maintain complete records year to year, decade to decade like Mr. Palacios did for Saipan. Even Guam doesn't have that.

Shuster relies less on numbers and more on words. Interviews with Wilhelm Rengiil, Minorou Ueki, Joshua Koshiba, Johnson Toribiong and others drive the book enough for one to understand why he subtitled it "Passion for the Game."

Shuster credits Motoji Kono, the son of a German father and Japanese mother, as the founder of baseball in Palau in 1925 and includes a terrific 1926 All-Palau All-Stars full page black and white team photo with names.

Each season, when there was a season, from 1947 to 2007 is recalled to the best of Shuster's ability to gather oral and written accounts, with some standings and stats thrown in when available. There's an even a chapter on black magic.

Shuster references "Saipan Baseball" for the Mobil Games and Micronesian Games which are just as much part of Palau's history as the CNMI's. Palau and Saipan baseball is intertwined which is clearly evident throughout.

Shuster helped me with my book and even tracked to California the original 8mm film of the 1969 Micronesian Games gold medal baseball game on Saipan between Palau and Truk, a classic 1-0 showdown that created the legends of a lifetime. That story is re-told in his book.

While "Saipan Baseball" was meant to be an inexpensive way of preserving the lifetime work of Mr. Palacios, Shuster spares no expense in creating a book meant to be on a coffee table more than a bookshelf. In simple English, that means it is not cheap. For baseball purists, that should be no obstacle. Cost is $28, plus $4.80 in shipping, total of $32.80 payable in postal money order to Dr. Dan Shuster at MARC, University of Guam.

"Saipan Baseball" quickly sold out its short print run and is no longer available. "Baseball in Palau" has also a short print run. Passionate people should get their copy before he sells out as it figures to be a best seller in Palau.